

FENCING RULES
AND MANUAL



AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE
OF AMERICA

1957

Charles R. Shippen Jr

Feb 1963

FENCING RULES
AND MANUAL

Edited by

MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES

AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE
OF AMERICA

1957

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FOREWORD

This book is published by the Amateur Fencers League of America for the guidance of all fencers in the United States. It is completely new in format and concept.

The technical rules contained in Titles I through IV are the official international rules which govern fencing events throughout the world. Any U.S. variation has been duly noted and printed under the appropriate Rule. Titles V, VI and VII cover the international and U.S. rules on organization of competitions and discipline.

Title VIII is a manual explaining the function and structure of the Amateur Fencers League of America and provides a detailed guide for administrative officers, bout committees and fencing juries.

The volume represents a monumental task and we were fortunate to have had Miguel de Capriles as chairman of the Rules Committee. His sound knowledge of the history and purpose of the rules, and his efforts during months of painstaking draftsmanship, have turned an idea into reality. We hope it will be studied with care by all fencers.

The Amateur Fencers League of America solicits your assistance in fulfilling its mission to popularize the sport of fencing in the United States.

JOSE R. DE CAPRILES, *President*

May, 1957

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(References are to Article numbers on margin of page unless otherwise indicated)

Foreword by Jose R. de CaprilesPage iii

TECHNICAL RULES OF FENCING 1957

1 TITLE ONE

General Rules and Rules Applicable to All Weapons

	<i>Art.</i>
CHAPTER I. Historical Note	1
CHAPTER II. Application of the Rules	
§ 1. Mandatory application of the rules	2
§ 2. Exceptions to the rules	4
§ 3. Events subject to the technical rules	5
§ 4. Amendments to the technical rules	7
CHAPTER III. Terminology	
A.—President	8
B.—Types of Contests	
§ 1. Loose play and bouts	9
§ 2. Match	10
§ 3. Competition	11
§ 4. Championship	12
§ 5. Tournament	13
C.—Explanation of Some Technical Terms Commonly Used in Judging Fencing	
§ 1. Fencing tempo	14
§ 2. Offensive actions	15
§ 3. Counter attacks	16
§ 4. Varieties of offensive actions	17
CHAPTER IV. Ground Rules	18
(Illustration of official strips)	
CHAPTER V. Weapons, Equipment, Clothing	
§ 1. Responsibility of fencers	24
§ 2. Regulation weapons	25
§ 3. Control	44
§ 4. Weapons which do not conform to the rules ..	45
§ 5. Equipment and clothing—general requirements	48
CHAPTER VI. Combat	
§ 1. Sportsmanship	49
§ 2. Clarity of touches	51
§ 3. Method of handling the weapon	52
§ 4. Use of a single hand	54

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	<i>Art.</i>
§ 5. Going on guard	55
§ 6. Start, cessation and renewal of combat	59
§ 7. Infighting	67
§ 8. The clinch	68
§ 9. Reversal of positions (see foil, epee, sabre)	69
§ 10. Ground gained or lost	71
§ 11. Crossing of boundaries	80
§ 12. Duration of combat	86
§ 13. Accidents—Withdrawal of a fencer	86
CHAPTER VII. Method of Judging Fencing	
A.—With a Jury	
§ 1. Composition of Jury	89
§ 2. Obligations of the Jury	92
§ 3. Positions occupied by the jury (illustration) ..	93
§ 4. Judging	95
B.—With the Electrical Apparatus (see foil and epee)	

2 TITLE TWO

Foil

CHAPTER I. Historical Note	106
CHAPTER II. Ground Rules	107
CHAPTER III. Weapons, Equipment, Clothing	
A.—Weapons	
§ 1. General specifications	111
§ 2. The blade	113
§ 3. The guard	115
§ 4. Attachments and martingales	118
§ 5. Pointes d'arret and buttons	119
B.—Equipment and clothing	120
CHAPTER IV. The Conventions of Foil Fencing	
A.—Method of Making Touches	124
B.—Target	
§ 1. Limitation of the target	125
§ 2. Extension of the target	126
§ 3. Consequences	128
C.—Clinches and Running Attacks	130
D.—Reversal of Positions	131
E.—Number of Touches and Time Limits	132
F.—Observance of the Right of Way	133
G.—Judging of Touches	
§ 1. Preliminary note	138
§ 2. The defender alone is counted at touched	142
§ 3. The attacker alone is counted as touched	143
§ 4. The fencers are replaced on guard (without a score)	144

Supplement to Title Two

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE ELECTRICAL FOIL	Page 25
I.—Registration Apparatus	
(A) Central apparatus	
(B) Reels, cables, and metallic strip	
II.—Personal Equipment of Fencers	
(A) General provisions	
(B) Electrical foil	
(C) Body cord	
(D) Metallic vest	
III.—Organization of Competitions and Judging of Hits	
(A) General provisions	
(B) Judging of hits	
(C) Failure of the apparatus	
(D) Penalties	
(E) Illegal weapons	
(F) General regulations	

3 TITLE THREE

Epee

	<i>Art.</i>
Important Note	145
CHAPTER I. Historical Note	146
CHAPTER II. Ground Rules	147
CHAPTER III. Registration Apparatus	153
CHAPTER IV. Weapons, Equipment, Clothing	
A.—Weapons and Personal Equipment	158
§ 1. General specifications of the weapon	159
§ 2. The blade	161
§ 3. Mounting and martingale	164
§ 4. The guard	166
§ 5. Pointes d'arret and buttons	168
§ 6. Resistance of circuit	173
§ 7. The connecting plugs	174
§ 8. Controls prior to the competitions	177
§ 9. Weapons not conforming to the rules	181
B.—Clothing	185
CHAPTER V. Method of Judging with the Electrical Apparatus	
§ 1. Use of apparatus	186
§ 2. Officials	187
CHAPTER VI. Conventions of Epee Fencing	
A.—Method of Making a Touch	202
B.—The Target	203
C.—Reversal of Positions	204
D.—Clinch	207
E.—Priority of Hits	208
F.—Judging	
§ 1. Fundamental principles	209
§ 2. Annulment of hits	210
§ 3. Judging of touches	223

4 TITLE FOUR

	Sabre	<i>Art.</i>
CHAPTER I.	Historical Note	227
CHAPTER II.	Ground Rules	228
CHAPTER III.	Weapons, Clothing, Equipment	
	A.—Weapons	
	§ 1. General specifications	232
	§ 2. The blade	234
	§ 3. The guard	235
	B.—Equipment and Clothing	237
CHAPTER IV.	The Conventions of Sabre Fencing	
	A.—Method of Making a Hit	241
	B.—Target	
	§ 1. Limitations of the target	245
	§ 2. Extension of the target	246
	§ 3. Consequences	249
	C.—Clinches and Running Attacks	251
	D.—Reversal of Positions	252
	E.—Number of Touches and Time Limits	253
	F.—Observance of the Right of Way	256
	G.—Judging of Touches	
	§ 1. Preliminary note	261
	§ 2. The defender alone is counted as touched	264
	§ 3. The attacker alone is counted as touched	265
	§ 4. The fencers are replaced on guard (without a score)	266

5 TITLE FIVE

Organization of International Competitions

CHAPTER I.	Management and Control	
	§ 1. The organizing committee	267
	§ 2. Central office of the F.I.E.	268
	§ 3. Bout committee	269
	§ 4. Jury of appeal	273
	§ 5. Field jury	279
	§ 6. Auxiliary personnel	283
CHAPTER II.	Entries for Competitions	284
CHAPTER III.	Control to be Effected Before Competitions (see supra)	
CHAPTER IV.	Sequence of Competitions	286
CHAPTER V.	Team Competitions	
	§ 1. Organization of events	294
	§ 2. Composition of teams	298
	§ 3. Order of bouts	301
	§ 4. Standing of teams	304

CHAPTER VI. Individual Competitions

A.—By Pools	<i>Art.</i>
§ 1. Official competitions	316
§ 2. Number of fencers in a pool	317
§ 3. Composition of pools	319
§ 4. Order of bouts	324
§ 5. Promotion to the next round	328
§ 6. Standing of fencers	331
§ 7. Fence-offs	333
§ 8. Withdrawal of a contestant	336
B.—By Direct Elimination	
§ 1. Applicability of rules	353
§ 2. Individual matches; number of touches	354
§ 3. Duration of matches	355
§ 4. Organization of competitions	359
§ 5. Final standing	364
§ 6. Master plan for direct elimination	365

CHAPTER VII. Special Rules for the World Championships

A.—Individual Championships	
§ 1. Annual championship	366
§ 2. Military championship	368
§ 3. Candidature	370
§ 4. Entries	371
B.—Team Championships	
§ 1. Simultaneous events	373
§ 2. Entries	375
C.—Provisions Applicable to both Team and Individual Events	
§ 1. Nationality of competitors	379
§ 2. F.I.E. Rules	382
§ 3. Bout committee	383
§ 4. Supervision by the F.I.E.	384
§ 5. Number of touches	385
§ 6. Control of weapons (see supra)	

CHAPTER VIII. International Contests in Several Weapons

6 TITLE SIX

International Code of Discipline

CHAPTER I.	Order and Discipline	
	§ 1. Team captain	387
	§ 2. Method of fencing	389
	§ 3. Abnormal stimulants	399
	§ 4. Punctuality	402
	§ 5. Spectators	407
	§ 6. Replacement of a member of the jury	408
	§ 7. Protests and appeals	409

CHAPTER II.	Jurisdiction and Penalties	<i>Art.</i>
	§ 1. Applicability	411
	§ 2. Classification of offenses	412
	§ 3. Nature of penalties	413
	§ 4. Announcement of penalties	420
	§ 5. Jurisdiction	422
	§ 6. Complaints and protests; procedure	430
	§ 7. Stay of execution	432
	§ 8. Repetition of offense	434
	§ 9. Pardon, remission and commutation of penalty	436

ILLUSTRATIONS OF TARGET

Women's target	437
Foil target	438
Sabre target	439
Epee target	440

7 TITLE SEVEN

Rules for A.F.L.A. Competitions

CHAPTER I.	General Regulations	
	A.—Jurisdiction of the A.F.L.A.	
	§ 1. General information	501
	§ 2. Classes of membership	505
	§ 3. Authorized competitions	510
	B.—Schedules and Classifications	
	§ 1. Schedule of events	513
	§ 2. Classification of fencers	521
	§ 3. Ranking Fencers; Masters and Veterans	528
	§ 4. Designation of competitions	532
	§ 5. Championships	535
	§ 6. National rating of competitions	539
	§ 7. Divisional and sectional rating of competitions	542
	C.—Entries	
	§ 1. Administrative provisions	546
	§ 2. Eligibility	550
	§ 3. Club representation	555
	D.—Management of Competitions	
	§ 1. Basic regulations	559
	§ 2. Physical facilities, equipment and personnel ..	561
	§ 3. Juries and auxiliary personnel	567
	§ 4. Bout committee	569
	§ 5. Duties of spectators	574
CHAPTER II.	Order and Discipline	
	A.—Basic Principles	
	§ 1. Authority and responsibility of officials	576
	§ 2. Applicability of international code of discipline ..	578
	§ 3. Warnings	579
	§ 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct	580

		<i>Art.</i>
	B.—The Jury of Appeal	
	§ 1. Procedure on appeal	583
	§ 2. Composition of Jury of Appeal	586
	§ 3. Authority of Jury of Appeal	589
	C.—Penalties Affecting Membership Rights	
	§ 1. Authority of the Board of Governors	592
	§ 2. Definition of penalties	594
	§ 3. Procedural requirements	597
	§ 4. Authority of Executive Committees	599
	§ 5. Observance of equitable principles	600
CHAPTER III.	Organization and Conduct of Competitions	
	A.—General Regulations	
	§ 1. Applicability of international rules	601
	§ 2. Surface of strip	604
	§ 3. Time schedule	605
	§ 4. Sequence of events	606
	B.—Scoring and Time Limits	
	§ 1. Number of touches; epee, foil and sabre	607
	§ 2. Three-weapon bouts	612
	§ 3. Duties of scorer	615
	§ 4. Time limits	619
	§ 5. Duties of time keeper	623
	§ 6. Unfinished bouts	626
	C.—Judging	
	§ 1. Applicability of international rules	628
	§ 2. Neutrality of juries	629
	§ 3. Materiality of hits	631
	§ 4. Validity of hits	634
	§ 5. Reversal of decisions	639
	D.—Individual Competitions	
	§ 1. Form of competitions	640
	§ 2. Seeding and byes: Round-robins and pools ..	644
	§ 3. Order of bouts: Round-robins and pools	648
	§ 4. Qualification in pool competitions	651
	§ 5. Fence-offs and final standings	658
	§ 6. Order of bouts: Direct elimination	660
	§ 7. Qualification and final standing: Direct elimina- tion	664
	§ 8. Withdrawals	666
	E.—Team Competitions	
	§ 1. Number of teams	670
	§ 2. Composite teams	672
	§ 3. Team membership	676
	§ 4. Team matches: Order of bouts	682
	§ 5. Form of competition	685
	§ 6. Direct elimination	687
	§ 7. Round-robins and pools	692
	§ 8. Ineligible competitors and withdrawals	695

CHAPTER IV.	Sectional Championships	
	A.—General Regulations	<i>Art.</i>
	§ 1. Definition	698
	§ 2. Date of championships	700
	§ 3. Form of competition	702
	B.—Pacific Coast Championships	
	§ 1. Eligible divisions	705
	§ 2. Place of tournament	708
	§ 3. Program of tournament	709
	§ 4. Qualifying competitions	712
	C.—Southwest Championships	
	§ 1. Eligible divisions	716
	§ 2. Place of tournament	717
	§ 3. Program of tournament	718
	D.—Mid-West Championships	
	§ 1. Eligible divisions	720
	§ 2. Program of tournament	721
	E.—North Atlantic Championships	
	§ 1. Eligible divisions	724
	§ 2. Program of tournament	725
CHAPTER V.	National Championship Tournament	
	A.—General Regulations	
	§ 1. Nature of tournament	731
	§ 2. Date and place of tournament	734
	§ 3. Schedule of tournament	738
	B.—Eligibility for Tournament	
	§ 1. Automatic qualifiers	740
	§ 2. Qualifying competitions	742
	§ 3. Individual qualifiers	749
	§ 4. Team qualifiers	753
	§ 5. Alternates	756
	§ 6. Certification of qualifiers and alternates	758
	C.—Entries	
	§ 1. Procedure for entries	761
	§ 2. Composition of teams	766
	D.—Forms of Competition	
	§ 1. First round	768
	§ 2. Subsequent rounds	770

8 TITLE EIGHT
A.F.L.A. Manual

CHAPTER I.	The Amateur Fencers League of America	<i>Page</i>
	A.—What is the A.F.L.A.?	109
	§ 1. Jurisdiction	109
	§ 2. Relations with A.A.U.	109
	§ 3. Relations with Olympic Committee	109
	§ 4. Relations with F.I.E.	109
	§ 5. Relations with colleges	109

		<i>Page</i>
	B.—Brief History and Structure	110
	§ 1. Foundation and leadership	110
	§ 2. Geographical organization	110
	§ 3. Government of the A.F.L.A.	110
	§ 4. Organization of fencing competitions	111
	§ 5. Official publication: American Fencing	111
	§ 6. Fencing masters and the A.F.L.A.	111
	§ 7. International record	111
	C.—Constitution of the A.F.L.A.	112
	D.—By Laws of the A.F.L.A.	117
	E.—Articles of Alliance with A.A.U.	124
	F.—Abstracts from F.I.E. Statutes	125
CHAPTER II.	Basic Policies of the A.F.L.A.	
	A.—The Amateur Code	126
	§ 1. Constitutional definition	126
	§ 2. Precedents in the United States	127
	§ 3. International precedents	127
	§ 4. Amateur coaching	128
	§ 5. Teachers of physical education	128
	§ 6. Administration of Amateur Code	128
	B.—Rules Governing Exhibitions	128
	§ 1. Requirement of official permission	128
	§ 2. Type of exhibition	129
	§ 3. Television programs	129
	§ 4. Financial limitations	129
	C.—The Professional Certificate of Merit	129
	§ 1. Nature of award	129
	§ 2. Basis of award	129
	§ 3. Method of award	129
	D.—Administration of National Affairs	130
	§ 1. Committees of the Board	130
	§ 2. The national nominating committee	130
CHAPTER III.	Management of Divisions	
	A.—How to Form an A.F.L.A. Division	131
	§ 1. Filing of petition	131
	§ 2. Action on petition	131
	§ 3. Executive Committee	131
	§ 4. Divisional By Laws	131
	§ 5. Divisional members of Board of Governors	131
	B.—Duties and Powers of Executive Committees	132
	§ 1. Composition of Executive Committees	132
	§ 2. Schedule of events	132
	§ 3. Entry fees	133
	§ 4. Disciplinary matters	133
	C.—Duties of the Secretary	133
	§ 1. Collection of dues	133
	§ 2. Membership cards and records	133
	§ 3. Monthly membership reports	133
	§ 4. Reports to American Fencing	134
	§ 5. Certification of qualifiers for national championships	134
	§ 6. Annual report	134

	<i>Page</i>
D.—Promotion of Fencing Activities	134
§ 1. General policy	134
§ 2. Development of young fencers	135
§ 3. Professional coaching	135
§ 4. Participation in sectional and national events	135
§ 5. Financial assistance for national events	135
§ 6. Supplies	136
E.—How to Conduct an A.F.L.A. Competition	136
§ 1. Check on facilities and equipment	136
§ 2. Plan of competition	136
§ 3. Seeding of preliminary pools	137
§ 4. Arrival of contestants	137
§ 5. Score sheets and juries	138
§ 6. Make-up of subsequent pools	138
§ 7. Ties and fence-offs	139
§ 8. Planning of team events	139
§ 9. Order of matches	139
§ 10. Ties and fence-offs in team events	140
§ 11. Awards and reports of results	140

CHAPTER IV. A.F.L.A. Judging Guide

A.—General Information	140
§ 1. Objectives of Judging Guide	140
§ 2. Knowledge of the rules	140
§ 3. Theory of the rules	140
§ 4. Conventions of fencing	141
§ 5. Order, safety, and sportsmanship	141
B.—Explanation of Judging Terms	141
§ 1. Scope of international definitions	141
§ 2. The sequence of play (phrase d'armes)	141
§ 3. The attack	141
§ 4. The lunge and the "fleche"	142
§ 5. Other body movements	142
§ 6. Simple and composite attacks	142
§ 7. Other types of attack	143
§ 8. Point in line	143
§ 9. Actions on the blade	143
§ 10. The parry	144
§ 11. Escapes and deceives	144
§ 12. The riposte and counter-riposte	144
§ 13. Other actions	145
§ 14. The "right of way"	145
§ 15. Continuity of offensive actions	145
C.—The President of the Jury	145
§ 1. Authority	145
§ 2. Location	145
§ 3. Directives to judges	145
§ 4. Directives to contestants	146
§ 5. Control of voting on touches	146
D.—The Judges	147
§ 1. Location	147
§ 2. Method of voting	147
§ 3. Calling halt	147

E.—Typical Problems in Judging Foil	<i>Page</i> 147
§ 1. Good and invalid hits	147
§ 2. Light touches	147
§ 3. Flat hits	147
§ 4. Hits with the parry	147
§ 5. Hits after the parry	148
§ 6. Covering a displacement of the target	148
F.—Typical Problems in Judging Sabre	148
§ 1. Good and invalid hits	148
§ 2. Hits heard but not seen	148
§ 3. Thrusts that pass	148
§ 4. Flat hits	148
§ 5. Insufficient parries	148
§ 6. Hits after the parry	148
G.—Typical Problems in Directing Combat	149
§ 1. Actions before the command "Fence!"	149
§ 2. Touches after "Halt!"	149
§ 3. Halting in good faith	149
§ 4. Fencers off the field of play	150
§ 5. Infighting and clinches	150
§ 6. "Fleches"	150
§ 7. Behavior of contestants	151
§ 8. Beats versus parries in sabre	151
§ 9. Benefit of the doubt	151

TECHNICAL RULES OF FENCING 1957

TITLE ONE

General Rules and Rules Applicable to the Three Weapons

NOTE: IGNORANCE OF THE RULES IS NO EXCUSE

CHAPTER I — HISTORICAL NOTE

The technical rules of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime were unanimously adopted by the International Congress of National Olympic Committees held in Paris in June 1914 for use in all events at the Olympic Games. They were first codified in 1914 by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat and Mr. Paul Anspach, and were issued under the title "Rules of Competition."

They were modified by various F.I.E. Congresses and were revised after the 1954 Congress, when they were renamed "Technical Rules."

U.S. 1 (additional note).—The rules governing amateur fencing competitions in the United States of America are enacted, amended, and repealed solely by action of the national Board of Governors of the Amateur Fencers League of America. From the time of the codification of the international rules, the A.F.L.A. as a matter of policy has generally followed the changes enacted by the F.I.E. in the technical rules and conventions of fencing, but each modification must be specifically adopted by the Board of Governors before it is effective for A.F.L.A. competitions. The A.F.L.A. from time to time has conducted experiments with rules that differ from the international rules, and has found it desirable to adopt certain textual variations or clarifications of the international rules for use in the United States.

The present A.F.L.A. rules book reproduces in English translation the official text of the F.I.E. rules, including the numbering of the articles on the margin; and, wherever applicable, adds thereto the variations or clarifications in force in the United States.

CHAPTER II — APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES

§ 1. Mandatory applicability of the rules.

These rules are mandatory for the Olympic Games and the World Championships.

U.S. 2 (addition).—These rules, as modified for use in the United States, are mandatory for the United States national championships, for divisional and interdivisional championships, and for other nationally rated competitions.

Unless exceptions are announced in advance, these rules are applicable to every international fencing event, of whatever nature it may be.

Art.
1

2

3

U.S. 3 (addition).—Unless exceptions are announced in advance, these rules are applicable to all events scheduled by or under the auspices of the A.F.L.A.

Art. § 2. Exceptions to the rules.

4 For all other meetings (tournaments, matches, special events, etc.), the Organizing Committee is at liberty to make exceptions to the provisions contained in the technical rules. These exceptions should be confirmed by the national association of the country to which the Organizing Committee belongs, and should be brought to the notice of those concerned when the announcement of the meeting is published.

In the absence of special regulations, the provisions of the present rules shall be observed.

§ 3. Events subject to the technical rules.

5 The present rules apply only to competitive contests in the three weapons, as described in Titles II, III, and IV.

6 However, academic contests and exhibitions in the three weapons may be scheduled at the same time as competitions.

§ 4. Amendments to the technical rules.

7 In principle, the F.I.E.'s technical rules remain valid for four years: from the 1st of January of the year preceding the year in which the Olympic Games are held to the 31st of December of the even-dated year which occurs between two Olympic Games. The procedure for revision or amendment of the rules is as follows: (1) Proposed amendments, supported by reasons and by results of experiments, are submitted to the Congress following the Olympic Games. These are either accepted for consideration or rejected. (2) Proposals which are accepted for consideration are studied during a period of six months by the Commissions concerned. Then a report, with conclusions and possible modifications, is referred to the national associations for their study over a period of three months. (3) The proposals and modifications thereto are voted upon at the Congress which is held during the even-dated year between two Olympic Games. (4) The new rules are applicable from the 1st of January of the year preceding the Olympic Games. (1939 Congress).

U.S. 7 (note).—In the United States, proposed amendments to the rules are referred to the A.F.L.A. Rules Committee for study and report prior to enactment by the Board of Governors, and approved rule changes are published in *American Fencing*, the official organ of the A.F.L.A.

CHAPTER III — TERMINOLOGY

A. — PRESIDENT

8 Throughout these rules the word "President" means "President of the Jury" or "Director of the Bout."

U.S. 8 (note).—In the United States, the term "Director" is used to designate the chief official in charge of a bout in all weapons. Internationally, the term "Director" is used only in competitions run with the electrical apparatus, without a jury.

B. — TYPES OF CONTESTS

§ 1. Loose play and bouts.

9 Friendly combat between two fencers is called "loose play." When score is kept of such combat to determine a result, the contest is called a "bout."

§ 2. Match.

The aggregate of the bouts fenced between members of two different teams is called a "match."

U.S. 10 (addition).—In individual events, a "match" is a contest fought for two or more bouts, usually on a direct-elimination basis.

§ 3. Competition.

A competition is the aggregate of the bouts (individual contests) or of the matches (team contests) required to determine the winner of the event. Competitions are classified according to weapons, to sex of competitors, age or occupation (e.g. military, student, etc.) or according to whether fenced on an individual or on a team basis.

U.S. 11 (addition).—Competitions in the United States are further classified according to the strength of the contestants allowed to participate therein, and according to the effect of participation or achievement therein upon the classification of the contestants. (See Title VII, Art. 532-545.)

§ 4. Championship.

"Championship" is the name given to a competition held to determine the best fencer or the best team in each weapon for a national association or for a specific region.

§ 5. Tournament.

"Tournament" is the name given to all competitions held at the same place, during the same period, and for the same reason.

C. — EXPLANATION OF SOME TECHNICAL TERMS COMMONLY USED IN JUDGING FENCING

§ 1. Fencing tempo.

"Fencing tempo" (*temps d'escrime*) is the time required for the execution of a simple fencing action.

U.S. 14 (clarification).—A fencing tempo is not a fixed interval of time, but is a variable which depends upon the speed of the fencers in the sequence of play.

§ 2. Offensive actions.

(a) *Attack or Riposte:*

Simple: in one movement;

direct: in the same line;

indirect: in another line;

Composite: in several movements.

(b) *Riposte:*

Immediate or Delayed: a question of fact and of rapidity of execution.

Examples:

(1) Simple direct ripostes:

Direct riposte: a riposte which touches the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made;

Riposte along the blade: a riposte which touches the opponent by gliding along his blade after the parry (*coulé*).

(2) Simple indirect ripostes:

Riposte by disengage: a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was made (by passing *under* the opponent's blade if the

parry was made in the high line, and *over* the blade if the parry was made in the low line);

Riposte by cut-over (coupé): a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was made, the blade always passing over the opponent's point.

(3) Composite ripostes:

Riposte by a double: a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was made, but after having described a complete circle around the opponent's blade;

Riposte by one-two: a riposte which touches the opponent in the same line in which the parry was made, but after the blade has first threatened the opposite line by passing under the opponent's blade.

U.S. 15 (additions).—Additional definitions of terms commonly used in judging in the United States will be found in the Judging Guide, Title VIII.

§ 3. Counter-attacks.

(a) *The Time Hit* is made against an attack by closing the line in which the attack is to be completed;

(b) *The Stop Hit*: every other counter-attack is a stop hit. It is made against all forms of attack (simple, composite, on the march, etc.). It must arrive *clearly before* the final movement of the attack (with a clearly appreciable fencing tempo);

(c) *Counter Time* is every action made by the original attacker on a time hit or stop hit made by his opponent.

§ 4. Varieties of offensive actions.

(a) *The Remise* is a simple and immediate offensive action which follows the original attack, *without withdrawal of the arm*, after the opponent has parried or retreated, when the latter either has released the blade without riposting or has made a delayed, indirect, or composite riposte;

(b) *The Redoublement* is a *new* action, either simple or composite, made against an opponent who has parried without riposting or who has merely evaded the first action by retreating or displacing the target;

(c) *The Reprise of Attack* is a new attack executed immediately after a return on guard which may be even momentary.

CHAPTER IV — GROUND RULES

The ground shall have a good surface. It shall give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either of the contestants, particularly with regard to slope and light.

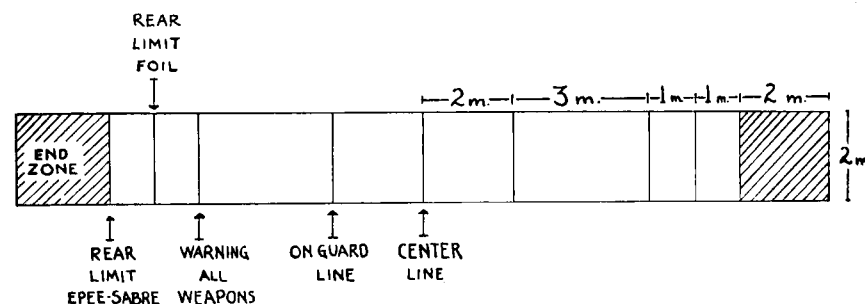
That portion of the ground which is used for combat is called the *field of play*.

The *strip* is the material that provides the surface of the field of play: packed earth, wood, linoleum, etc.

When announcing the particulars of a competition, the organizers must always state the nature of the strip on which the competition will be fenced.

In addition to the length of the field of play prescribed for each weapon, the strip should in practice be extended a distance of 2 m. (6' 7") at each end, so as to enable the competitor who is about to cross the limit of the field of play to retreat over a level and unbroken surface.

In any case the length of the field of play must be not less than 10 m. (32' 10").



INTERNATIONAL ALL-PURPOSE STRIP

Specifications

Minimum over-all length: 18 meters (60').

Length of field of play: Foil, 12 m. (39' 5"); epee-sabre, 14 m. (46').

"On guard" lines: 2 m. (6' 7") from center.

Rear limit lines: Foil, 6 m. from center; epee-sabre, 7 m. from center.

Warning lines: 5 m. from center (1 m. from foil rear limit, 2 m. from epee-sabre rear limit).

Length of end zones: Foil, 3 m.; epee-sabre, 2 m.

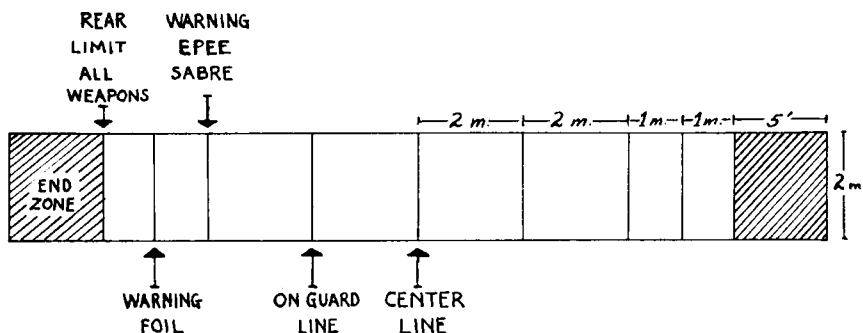
Retreating distance, first time off with both feet: Foil, 4 m.; epee-sabre, 5 m.

F.I.E. Ground Rules

Foil: Total retreating distance, 4 m. (13' 3"). Bout stopped at (1 m.) warning line; then if off foil rear limit with both feet, one touch penalty.

Epee-sabre: Total retreating distance, 10 m. (32' 10"). Once off epee-sabre rear limit with both feet without penalty; then bout stopped at (2 m.) warning line; then if off epee-sabre rear limit again with both feet, one touch penalty.

U.S. 22-23(a).—In the United States, the official A.F.L.A. strip is obligatory for all championship events. The official strip shall be between 1.80 m. (5' 11") wide and 2 m. (6' 7") wide, and at least 15.24 m. (50') long. The length of the field of play shall be 40 feet for all weapons, and each end zone shall be at least 5 feet long.



OFFICIAL A.F.L.A. STRIP

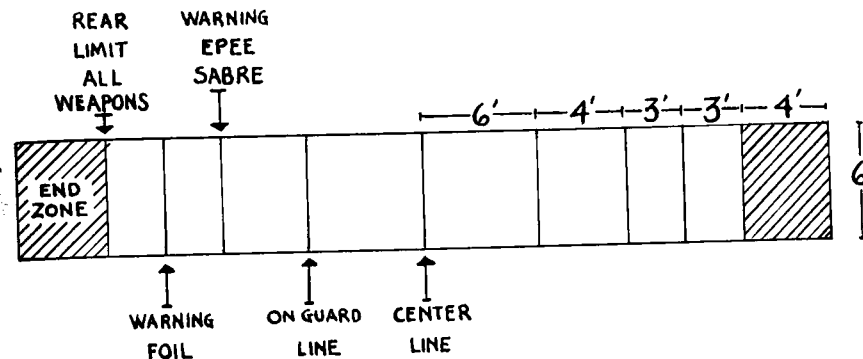
Specifications

Minimum over-all length: 50 feet (15.24 m.).
 Length of field of play: 12.2 m.
 "On guard" lines: 2 m. from center.
 Rear limit lines: 6 m. from center.
 Warning lines: Foil, 5 m. from center, 1 m. from rear limit; epee-sabre, 4 m. from center, 2 m. from rear limit.
 End zones, minimum length: 5 feet each.
 Retreating distance, first time off with both feet: 4 m.

A.F.L.A. Ground Rules

Foil: Total retreating distance, 4 m. Bout stopped at 1 m. warning line; then, if off rear limit line with both feet, one touch penalty.
Epee-sabre: Total retreating distance, 8 m. Once off with both feet without penalty; then bout stopped at 2 m. warning line; then, if off rear limit again with both feet, one touch penalty.

U.S. 22-23(b).—For authorized A.F.L.A. competitions other than championship events, the strip shall be not less than 3 feet (0.914 m.) wide and 40 feet (12.19 m.) long. The minimum length of the field of play shall be 32 feet (9.75 m.) and each end zone shall be at least 4 feet (1.22 m.) long.



A.F.L.A. MINIMUM LENGTH STRIP

Specifications

Minimum over-all length: 40 feet (12.2 m.).
 Length of field of play: 32 feet.
 "On guard" lines: 6 feet from center.
 Rear limit lines: 16 feet from center.
 Warning lines: Foil, 13 feet from center, 3 feet from rear limit; epee-sabre, 10 feet from center, 6 feet from rear limit.
 End zones, minimum length: 4 feet each.
 Retreating distance, first time off with both feet: 10 feet.

A.F.L.A. Ground Rules

Foil: Total retreating distance, 13 feet (4 m.). Once off field of play with both feet without penalty; back to foil (3 ft.) warning line; next time off with both feet, one touch penalty.
Epee-sabre: Total retreating distance, 26 feet (8 m.). Twice off field of play with both feet without penalty; back to epee-sabre (6 ft.) warning line; next time off with both feet, one touch penalty.

CHAPTER V — WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING

Art. § 1. Responsibility of fencers.

24 Fencers arm, equip, and clothe themselves upon their own responsibility and at their own risk, subject only to the condition that the weapons, equipment, and attire must conform to these rules. The fencers themselves are the only persons liable in any respect for any accidents which they may cause or suffer.

U.S. 24 (clarification).—The following rules, insofar as they prescribe the specifications for the weapons or relate to facility in judging or the acquisition of an unwarranted competitive advantage by one fencer over another, shall be strictly enforced by the President or other official in authority. Insofar as these rules relate to protection against injury to contestants, they shall be deemed advisory but not mandatory upon the officials.

§ 2. Regulation weapons.

(a) General description.

25 All kinds of weapons are allowed, provided that they conform to the rules.

26 The weapon shall be so constructed that it cannot injure either the user or his opponent.

27 The maximum length of the weapon is the distance between two planes parallel to each other and perpendicular to the axis of the straight blade. The first of these planes passes through the extreme tip of the weapon, that is to say, the forward end of the point if there is one, or of the button covered with waxed thread if there is one, or of the *pointe d'arret* if there is one. The second of these planes passes through the extreme back end of the weapon, that is to say, at the rear extremity of the locking nut if there is one, or of the pommel if there is no locking nut, or of the handle if there is neither locking nut nor pommel.

(b) The blade

28 The length of the blade is the distance between two planes parallel to each other and perpendicular to the axis of the blade. The first of these planes passes through the extreme tip of the blade, that is, at the forward end of the point if there is one, or of the button covered with waxed thread if there is one, or of the *pointe d'arret* if there is one. The second of these planes passes through the point where the axis of the blade meets the front or convex surface of the guard.

(c) The mounting

29 1. The mounting includes or may include the tang of the blade, the guard, the padding, the handle (the part of the hilt which alone is usually intended to be held by the hand), the pommel, the locking nut, and the attachment or martingale.

30 2. The over-all length of the mounting, everything included, must be less than 232 mm. (9.134"), measured from the inner surface of the guard.

31 3. The mounting must not at any point have a greater diameter than that of the guard; it must, therefore, be able to pass through the same gauge as the guard; it must be constructed so that it cannot injure either the user or his opponent.

32 4. At the wish and at the risk and peril of the contestant, all possible and imaginable systems of mounting—with or without transverse bars, lengthwise bars, swellings, crosses, notches, grooves, rings, pommels, locking nuts, hand grips, etc., separately or conjointly—are allowed, provided that they conform to the rules designed to place the various types of weapons on the same plane of absolute equality, and at the same time prevent the contestant from committing the following irregular actions:

(a) transforming the weapon—either permanently or temporarily, openly or by concealment—into a sort of throwing weapon;

(b) unduly increasing, either openly or by concealment, permanently or temporarily—the effective length of the weapon while retaining the power to use the weapon in a manner that is equally effective to that which obtains when the hilt is held in the normal manner, that is to say, close to the inner surface of the guard;

(c) giving the hand and the wrist of the contestant, by any means whatsoever, greater protection than is normally afforded by a guard—off-center or not—which has the maximum diameter and depth permitted by the rules.

5. Therefore:

The mounting shall not include any device which permits the contestant, before or during a thrust, to slide the weapon through the hand and to catch it afterwards by the end of the hilt.

The mounting shall not include any device which in any manner whatsoever may increase the protection afforded by the guard to the hand and wrist of the contestant. A cross-bar which extends beyond the edge of the guard is absolutely forbidden.

Further, if the mounting includes any device—or combination of devices used together—which determines and fixes the position of the hand on the hilt, this device or combination of devices must conform to the following two conditions:

(a) The device—or combination of devices—must determine and fix one, and only one, position for the hand on the hilt;

(b) When the hand occupies the one and only position fixed by the device or combination of devices, the end of the thumb when fully extended must be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

The following are regarded as being devices which determine and fix a single position for the hand on the hilt:

(a) a hilt sufficiently roughened to prevent the hand from changing position;

(b) a glove the inner surface of which is coated with wax or any similar substance;

(c) any device, such as a pocket, pad, etc., which makes it possible to clamp the hilt of the weapon, or to increase the power of gripping the weapon beyond that which is obtainable with an ordinary glove.

6. The *guard* shall be the only part of the mounting which normally protects the hand and wrist of the fencer. It shall have a convex or conical shape in front, and a smooth but not too bright surface, and the whole shall be so made that it can neither hold nor catch the opponent's point. It must not have a raised rim.

When the guard is off-center, the amount of eccentricity is the shortest distance between, first, a line drawn from the center of the guard parallel to the axis of the blade, and, second, the point where the broad end of the blade is nearest to the said line.

The padding inside the guard shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787") thick, and shall not be arranged in any manner that may increase the protection which the guard affords the hand.

7. The length of the *hilt* is the extent of that side of the hilt, or those outer edges of the hilt, whose length is visibly nearest to the long axis of the hilt between the two following points: first, the point of intersection of the axis of the hilt and the inner or back surface of the guard; second, the hindmost point of the axis of the locking nut if there is one, or the hindmost point of the pommel if there is no locking nut, or the hindmost point of the axis of the handle if there is neither locking nut nor pommel.

Art. 40 8. The length of the *handle* is the extent of that side of the handle or those outer edges of the handle whose length is visibly nearest the length of the axis of the handle between the two following points: first, the point of intersection of the axis of the handle and the inner or back surface of the guard; second, the hindmost point of the axis of the handle.

41 9. In order to place on the same footing of absolute equality, as far as possible, all the different types of mounting of hilts and handles, as well as the different schools and methods of fencing, all systems and types of hilts and handles are allowed, provided that they conform to the following conditions or restrictions:

(a) That part of the hilt which has a roughened surface or a shape that provides a firm grasp for the fencer's hand shall have a total length of less than 180 mm. (7.087"), measured from the inner surface of the guard. Generally the said 180 mm. includes only the handle—that is, the part of the mounting which alone is usually held by the hand—while the pommel, which is normally intended to balance the weapon and not to increase its effective length, has a shape and surface which do not provide a firm grasp for the fencer's hand.

(b) However, the said 180 mm. may, if the fencer so desires, include the entire hilt, where there is a short handle and pommel and the latter has a shape and surface which give a firm grasp for the fencer's hand. For example, a mounting which consists of a handle 158 mm. (6.220") long and a pommel 20 mm. (0.787") long with an uneven surface and a shape which gives the fencer's hand a firm grasp, shall be allowed because the total length is less than 180 mm.

(c) No part of the hilt—if such part exists—at a distance between 180 mm. (7.087") and 232 mm. (9.134") from the inner surface of the guard shall have either a shape or a surface that allows it to be held easily and firmly by the fingers or in the hollow of the hand, this part of the hilt being intended only to counterbalance the weapon.

42 10. All kinds of *attachments*—used separately or together—are allowed provided they comply with the restrictions stated above, which may be summarized by the following requirements:

(a) They shall compel the fencer to keep his hand close to the guard, in such a manner that the end of the thumb when fully extended shall be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

(b) They shall not form any loops in which the opposing point may catch.

(c) They shall not protect either the hand or the wrist; they must not be made of any substance which may cause the opposing point to glance off.

43 11. Whenever the hand is not specially fixed to the hilt by an appropriate attaching device, the *martingale* is obligatory: It consists of a supple leash that keeps the weapon loosely attached to the hand so as to prevent possible injury to anyone else in case of disarmament.

(d) *Pointes d'arret and buttons* (See under each weapon).

§ 3. Control (See also Art. 177 to 180).

44 The Bout Committee, or else the Organizing Committee, shall appoint a special representative whose duty it shall be to check the weapons, equipment, and clothing used.

This representative is required to reject any weapon which does not conform to the rules. He is further authorized to exclude any contestant whose equipment or clothing appears to him to be inadequate.

U.S. 44 (additions).—(a) The President of the Jury is empowered to exercise the function of this special representative whenever the occasion arises.

(b) A contestant shall not be permitted to fence unless he has available

for his personal use at least two complete weapons that conform to the rules. In competitions conducted with electrical weapons, this requirement includes at least two body cords in good working order.

§ 4. Weapons not conforming to the rules (See also Art. 181-184).

When there has been a weapon-check prior to a competition, a fencer who *appears* on the strip with a weapon which does not conform to the rules shall be warned on the first occasion, and the next time his weapon shall be confiscated. If necessary, he may be compelled to finish the event with a weapon provided by the Organizing Committee.

U.S. 45 (addition).—The fencer who is guilty of a second offense against this rule during a competition shall be subject to disciplinary penalties. The Organizing Committee is authorized to charge a reasonable rental fee for any weapons made available to a competitor, who shall in addition be liable for any breakage of blades or necessary repairs.

When there has been no weapon-check prior to a competition, no penalties may be imposed, but the fencer shall not be permitted to use his weapon until the official repairmen have made it conform to the rules.

When the failure of a weapon to conform to the rules is determined *after one or several hits have been exchanged*, this determination is not in itself sufficient to justify the annulment of the touches scored with the irregular weapon, but shall result in the application of the warning, confiscation, etc., as stated above. In case of a flagrant repetition or fraudulent intent by the fencer concerned, the last hit scored by him, but only this hit, may be annulled by the President of the Jury, without prejudice to the eventual imposition of the penalties provided in Title VI.

U.S. 47 (modification).—The annulment of the last hit scored with a weapon found to be irregular is mandatory in all cases arising under this rule, regardless of the fencer's intent.

§ 5. Equipment and clothing. — General requirements.

The equipment and clothing shall comply with the following conditions:

(a) The fencer shall have the *maximum protection* compatible with the freedom of movement necessary for fencing. For both men and women, when the jacket is cut horizontally at the waist, the lower edge must overlap the breeches by at least 10 cm. (4") when the fencer is in the "on guard" position. Women's equipment must include a breast protector made of metal or other rigid material. For epee, the contestant is required to wear an under-garment made of hemp cloth, as described in Art. 185.

(b) It shall not be possible for the opponent to be *obstructed or injured* by the equipment; nor for the opponent's weapon to be caught or deflected by the equipment, which therefore shall have no buckles or opening in which, except by accident, the opposing point might be caught.

U.S. 48(b) (addition).—In all weapons, the glove shall have a cuff sufficiently long to overlap the cuff of the jacket at all times, regardless of the movement of the arm, so as to prevent the passage of the blade into the sleeve at the wrist.

(c) The *judging* of hits shall be *facilitated* as much as possible; the material of which the equipment is made shall not have a surface which is smooth enough to cause the *pointe d'arret*, the button, or the opponent's hit to glance off. Thus, the use of materials such as silk, satin, etc., is forbidden. All clothing shall be white, for women as well as men, and shall be made of strong material. The bib of the mask, and for epee and sabre also those parts of the mask which may come in

contact with the opponent's weapon (mesh, reinforcements, padding, bib) as well as the outside surface of the eye shade, which if used must always be placed inside the mask, shall be white or of a very pale buff color. On the other hand, the internal surface of the mesh, reinforcements, padding, bib, and eye shade may be of any color.

U.S. 48(c) (note).—For competitions in the United States, this rule shall not be interpreted to bar the wearing of identifying insigniae on the back arm or the use of a narrow stripe bearing club or college colors as trim along the seams of the breeches or shoes.

CHAPTER VI — COMBAT

Art. § 1. Sportsmanship.

49 Every bout or match shall preserve the character of a courteous and sportsman-like encounter. All violent actions, e.g. running attack (*fleche*) ending in a collision which jostles the opponent, hits delivered with brutal strength with any weapon, or sabre cuts deliberately struck upon parts of the body not included in the target, etc., are absolutely forbidden (See Art. 395).

50 All systems and methods of combat, including drawing back and displacing the body, sidestepping, turning, etc., are allowed.

§ 2. Clarity of touches.

51 Every hit with the point in epee, foil, and sabre must arrive clearly and distinctly in order to count as a touch. Grazes with the point are therefore not counted as valid touches and do not annul anything that arrives later.

§ 3. Method of handling the weapon.

52 In the absence of a special device, the fencer is free to hold the handle of the weapon as he sees fit, and he may if he wishes modify the position of his hand during the course of the bout. However, the weapon shall not be transformed—permanently or temporarily, openly or by concealment—into a throwing weapon; it must be handled without the hand leaving the hilt or sliding along it, and without recapturing it with the fingers by the aid of a special device.

U.S. 52 (addition).—Violation of this rule is punishable by the immediate annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer and, after a single warning, by a penalty touch against him for each subsequent offense during the same bout.

53 In the three weapons, defensive actions must be effected exclusively with the guard and blade, separately or together.

§ 4. Use of a single hand.

54 The weapon shall be handled with one hand only, and with the same hand until the end of the bout, unless the President expressly authorizes a change of hands because of injury to the sword arm or hand; the use of the unarmed hand or arm either in offense or in defense, is prohibited. The punishment for violation of this rule shall be a penalty of one touch after a single warning in the course of the same bout. (Congress of 1935).

U.S. 54 (addition).—The punishment for violation of this rule in the United States shall be the immediate annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer and, after a single warning, a penalty touch against him for each subsequent offense during the same bout. However, the unarmed hand may come in contact with the ground without violating this rule (See Art. 127).

§ 5. Going on guard.

The fencer who is called first shall place himself at the right of the President, **except** in the case where the fencer called first is left-handed and he is meeting a right-handed fencer in a bout fought without the electrical apparatus.

The President shall require each of the contestants to stand so that his forward foot shall be 2 m. from the center line of the field of play (that is, behind the "on guard" lines).

The contestants shall go on guard, at the beginning and at all subsequent times during the bout, midway between the sides of the strip.

The fencers shall go on guard when the President gives the command "On Guard"; and the President shall then ask, "Are you ready?" Upon affirmative reply from both contestants, the President shall give the signal to begin combat: "Play!"

U.S. 58 (note).—In the United States, the preferred command for the commencement of combat is "Fence!"

§ 6. Start, cessation, and renewal of combat.

(a) As soon as the command "Play!" is given, the contestants may assume the offensive. Any movement which starts or arrives before the command to play shall be annulled.

The contestants may thereupon fence as they please, and at their own risk and peril, subject only to the condition that they shall observe the fundamental rules of fencing.

(b) The cessation of combat is marked by the command "Halt!", except when something happens that modifies the normal and regular conditions of combat.

As soon as the command "Halt!" is given, a fencer shall refrain from starting a new action; only the movement already under way can be counted. Everything that happens thereafter shall be absolutely invalid.

If one of the fencers stops before the command "Halt!", and he is hit, the touch shall be valid. *However, in exceptional circumstances, if he stops in good faith and if a sufficient interval of time has elapsed without action, the President shall decide whether or not the touch shall be counted.*

The command "Halt!" shall be given not only when the combat is normally at an end, but also if the play of the fencers is dangerous, confused, or contrary to the rules, or if one of the contestants goes off the field of play, or if in retreating he comes too close to the spectators or the jury.

(c) After each touch counted as valid, the fencers are replaced on guard in the center of the field of play. If the hit is not allowed by the jury, the fencers shall go back on guard at the place they occupied when combat was interrupted, thereby retaining the ground gained. The replacement on guard and the renewal of combat shall be effected as provided above.

In bouts for several touches, the fencers shall change sides: (1) Outdoors, after every touch; (2) indoors, when one of the fencers has received one-half of the maximum number of touches that he may receive. However, with the electrical apparatus, the fencers do not change sides during the bout.

§ 7. Infighting.

Infighting (combat at close quarters) exists when the contestants have their two guards in contact, or the guard of one fencer touches any part of the limbs or body of the other, or the arms or legs of the two fencers touch, or the trunks of their bodies are momentarily in contact. Infighting is allowed to continue subject to the general rules previously stated; it shall be permitted only as long as it conforms

to the rules which define and govern normal and regular combat, with the weapon and the weapon alone, handled with one hand, as previously provided.

Art. § 8. The clinch.

68 The clinch (*corps a corps*) exists when the two contestants, after infighting or after having passed (even though very rapidly) through a phase of infighting, meet and remain clearly in contact by the intentional act of one or both without being able to separate or to use their weapons in accordance with the rules which define and govern combat with the weapon only, handled with one hand. As soon as it is clearly evident that a clinch exists, the President shall stop the bout.

§ 9. Reversal of positions. (See provisions for foil, epee, and sabre, Titles II, II and IV).

§ 10. Ground gained or lost.

69 The ground gained is held until a touch is awarded. If the bout is halted, but no touch is awarded, the contestants shall go back on guard midway between the sides of the strip at approximately the point where the action was stopped, each contestant yielding the same distance. However, three exceptions should be noted:

70 (a) When the bout has been stopped because of a clinch (*corps a corps*), the fencers shall be put on guard in such a manner that the fencer who has stood his ground shall remain where he was;

(b) A fencer shall not be placed back on guard behind the warning line if he were in front of it at the suspension of the bout;

(c) A fencer shall not lose ground on the retaking of guard if he were behind the warning line at the suspension of the bout.

§ 11. Crossing of boundaries.

(a) *Stopping the bout:*

71 Whenever a contestant crosses any of the boundaries of the field of play with both feet, the President shall immediately call "Halt!" and shall annul anything that may have happened after the crossing of such boundary, excepting only a hit against such a contestant that is the result of an action initiated by his opponent immediately after the crossing of the boundary.

72 When one of the two contestants goes off the field of play, only a hit made by the fencer who remains on the field of play can be counted, even in the case of a double touch.

(b) *Rear boundaries and warning lines:*

73 When a fencer in retreating reaches his warning line for the last time with the rear foot, the President shall give the command "Halt!" and shall warn the fencer as to the remaining distance that he may retreat without crossing the rear boundary of the field of play. The President shall repeat this warning each time that the fencer, having regained ground, might reasonably be in doubt as to his position on the field of play. The fencers are not warned anywhere else on the field of play.

74 The fencer who thereafter crosses the rear boundary of the field of play for the last time with both feet shall be considered touched. However, if he retreats off the field of play with both feet without having been warned, he shall be placed back on guard at the warning line.

75 If, for practical reasons, the ground is not long enough to provide the regulation-length field of play, each fencer shall be allowed to retreat off the field of play without penalty as often as is necessary to permit him to retreat for the full distance provided in the rules.¹

¹ Interpretation by way of example:

Assume that Fencer A has retreated off his end of the field of play once. Then his

If a fencer who has crossed the rear boundary of the field of play that is shorter than regulation length is attacked, and he parries and makes an immediate riposte or he stop-hits, the touch so scored shall be valid. This provision shall not apply, however, to a fencer who has retreated off the field of play *for the last time*.

(c) *Side boundaries:*

A fencer who crosses one of the side boundaries with both feet is not considered touched; he shall be replaced on guard midway between the sides of the strip, but shall be penalized by the loss of 1 m. (3' 3") of ground in foil and 2 m. (6' 7") in epee and sabre. If the application of this penalty of 1 m. or 2 m. places the contestant with both feet behind the rear limit of the field of play, he shall be considered touched.

A fencer who crosses one of the boundaries of the field of play through an accident, such as a collision, shall not be liable to any penalty.

However, a fencer who "systematically" crosses one of the boundaries of the field of play with both feet—particularly in executing a running attack (*fleche*)—in order to avoid a hit, shall after a single warning during the same bout be penalized one touch. In addition to the warning, any touch received by such fencer immediately after the crossing of the boundary—as described in Art. 71—shall be counted.

Consequently, every touch scored by the running contestant while he is off the field of play shall be annulled, while any touch scored by him while on the field of play shall be valid even if he goes off after having scored, and in the latter event there is no question of a warning or penalty. (Congress of 1939).

U.S. 79 (clarification).—The one-touch penalty is applicable against the offending contestant each time after the warning, that he goes off the field of play. Notwithstanding the provisions in the last paragraph, a running attack which results in a touch is subject to penalties in the event of a collision or unnecessary roughness. (See Art. 396-398).

§ 12. Duration of combat.

(a) The duration of combat shall be clocked exactly by a stop-watch. At the Olympic Games and the World Championships, the Bout Committee shall appoint time-keepers for all the bouts. By the duration of combat is meant the effective duration, that is, the total interval of time during which the contestants are fencing or are at liberty to fence, exclusively of the time taken out for the deliberations of the jury and other interruptions.

The time limits on combat shall be as follows:

(1) In epee: one-touch events, five minutes of effective combat; three-touch and five-touch events, ten minutes of effective combat.

(2) In foil and sabre: five-touch events, ten minutes of effective combat.

(3) In women's foil: four-touch events, eight minutes of effective combat.

U.S. 81 (addition).—The Bout Committee is empowered to modify these time limits whenever the occasion requires, and to fix appropriate time limits for three-weapon bouts and for bouts for more than the standard number of touches, but the minimum time limit in multiple-touch bouts shall be five minutes.

The President shall warn the fencers two minutes and one minute before the expiration of the time limit allotted for effective combat.

opponent B retreats off his end. A has regained the ground previously lost, and both contestants are at that moment entitled to the full retreating distance, since the bout is fenced always over the full length of the field of play specified in the rules.

Art. 83

U.S. 82 (addition).—The President shall stop the bout on giving this warning. The time-keeper shall engage the President's attention at the appropriate time so that the President may give the required warning. The time-keeper shall call "Time!" when the limit has expired. This call fixes the end of the time limit even if the President has not stopped the bout.

If, during the bout, one of the contestants seeks unduly to cause or to prolong interruptions of combat, the President may warn him for the first offense, penalize him one touch for the second offense, and exclude him from the competition for a third offense.

84 (b) If at the end of the time limit neither fencer has scored the number of touches required for victory, the procedure shall be as follows:

(1) In the three weapons, if one fencer has received more touches than the other, there shall be added to his score the number needed to reach the maximum, and the same number shall be added to the touches received by his opponent. For example, if X leads Y by 3/1, he is declared the winner by 5/3.

(2) In foil and sabre, if the two contestants have received the same number of touches (or no touches at all), they are considered to have each received the maximum touches *minus one*; and they shall fence for the last touch without limit of time.

(3) In one-touch epee, if neither contestant has been touched, they shall both be declared touched, and each shall be charged with a defeat.

(4) In multiple-touch epee, if both contestants have received the same number of touches (or no touches at all), they are considered to have each received the maximum number of touches, but they shall fence without limit of time for a supplementary touch which shall not count at all in the touch total (thus, for example, at five touches, the result will be V/5, D/5).¹

85 (c) When the bout is prolonged in this manner, the contestants shall remain at the place they occupied on the strip at the expiration of the regular time limit.

§ 13. Accidents. — Withdrawal of a fencer.

86 If a fencer is the victim of an accident which has been duly recognized, the President may allow him the necessary time-out to recover sufficiently to continue the bout.

87 In case the fencer is indisposed, and the indisposition has been duly recognized, the President may likewise grant him time-out, but only once during the bout and for a period not longer than ten minutes.

88 The President on his own authority may require the withdrawal of a fencer whose physical inability to continue is obvious.

CHAPTER VII — METHOD OF JUDGING FENCING

A. — WITH A JURY

§ 1. Composition of jury.

89 The jury consists of a President and four judges, who for official F.I.E. events shall always be amateurs and holders of F.I.E. licenses.

U.S. 89 (addition).—The jury at official A.F.L.A. competitions shall consist of amateurs in good standing, except that for divisional events a jury may contain one or more non-amateur members of the A.F.L.A. if such a decision is made by affirmative action of the appropriate governing body. In emergency

¹ Accordingly, there are no longer any drawn (tie) bouts between two contestants in any weapon.

circumstances the Jury may, in the absolute discretion of the Bout Committee, be limited to a President and two judges.

The Bout Committee shall make every effort to appoint juries that shall be as neutral as possible.

U.S. 90 (addition).—The appointment of juries lies exclusively in the jurisdiction of the Bout Committee. The Bout Committee shall immediately replace any member of the jury whenever in its opinion such replacement is necessary or desirable, for any reason whatsoever.

For the finals of individual competitions in foil and sabre at the Olympic Games and the World Championships, two complete juries shall be appointed, and each shall judge alternate quarters of the bouts in the final round.¹

§ 2. Obligations of the jury.

By the acceptance of a position on a jury, each of its members is honor bound to respect the rules and to cause them to be respected, and to carry out his functions with scrupulous impartiality and the most sustained attention.

§ 3. Positions occupied by the jury.

The President, standing at an equal distance from each contestant and as nearly as possible about 4 m. (13' 2") from the field of play, shall pay especial attention to the play as a whole and to the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*).

The two judges placed on the right of the President shall watch and verify especially the materiality of touches which may be received by the fencer on the left of the President. Similarly, the two judges placed on the left of the President shall watch and verify especially the materiality of touches which may be received by the fencer on the right of the President.

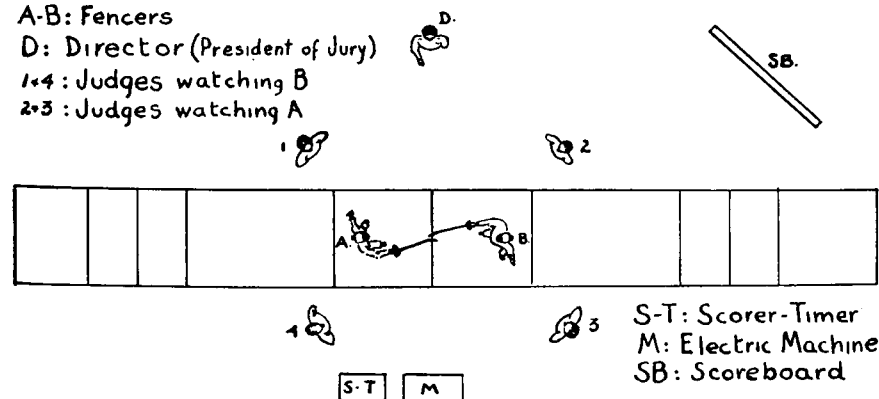
U.S. 94 (addition).—The judges are required to stand about 1 m. (3' 3") behind and to the side of the opponent of the fencer whom they are watching. This position protects the judges against possible injury from the weapons of the contestants and gives the President a clear view of the play of both fencers.

A-B: Fencers

D: Director (President of Jury)

1-4: Judges watching B

2-3: Judges watching A



§ 4. Judging.

(a) The President is in charge of directing the bout; he alone gives the commands. However, any other member of the jury may give the command "Halt!", but only if he thinks that there may be an accident. Except in this case,

¹ This rule is recommended for other tournaments whenever conditions allow.

Art. 90

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Art.
96

the function of a judge is only to advise the President when he sees, or thinks that he sees, a hit. He should do so by raising his hand.

(b) As soon as a judge sees a hit (whether on valid target or not) arrive on the fencer whom he is watching, he *must* raise his hand in order to advise the President.

97 All judging is conducted aloud and without the members of the jury leaving the positions which they occupy.

98 The jury is not bound by a fencer's acknowledgement of a hit as permitted by the rules (see Art. 390).

99 The jury first decides the *materiality* of the hit or hits. The President then alone decides which fencer has been touched according to the conventional rules for each weapon.

100 1. *Materiality of the hit.* As soon as the bout has been stopped, the President shall briefly describe the movements which composed the last sequence of play (*phrase*) before the command "Halt!" (this formality is not mandatory in epee).

101 He then shall question the two judges watching one fencer in order to ascertain whether in their opinion each of the movements in his analysis has resulted in a hit on that contestant; he shall follow the same procedure for the other contestant (this formality must be observed in all three weapons).

102 When questioned, the judges shall reply in one of the following ways: "Yes," "Yes, but invalid," "No," or "Abstention."¹

U.S. 102 (note).—In the United States, the preferred answer for hits outside the target is "Off target" instead of "Yes but invalid."

103 The President then shall total the votes cast on each side, the opinion of each judge being counted as one vote, that of the President himself as one and a half votes, and abstentions not being counted at all.

(1) If both judges on the same side agree in a definite opinion (either both say "Yes," or both say "No," or both say "Yes but invalid") the President simply accepts their judgment.

(2) If one of the judges has a definite opinion and the other abstains, the President may decide alone, since his vote prevails; if he also abstains, the decision of the judge who has a definite opinion prevails.

(3) If the two judges have definite but contrary opinions, or if both abstain, the President may decide according to his own observations²; if he also abstains, the hit is regarded as doubtful.

(In the case of a double abstention, the President may, as an exceptional measure, ask the opinions of the other two judges if he believes that they were better

¹ In practice judges may use expression having the same meaning; for example, in foil: "on the bib" for "Yes," "too low" for "Not valid," "parried" or "passed," for "No"; or in sabre, "insufficient parry" for "Yes," etc.

² Examples (Congress of 1932):

(I) Judge A says "No"; Judge B says "Too Low"; even if the President thinks "Good Touch," the judgment must be "No"; but in this case, since one judge and the President agree that at least there has been contact with the point on the opponent, after the decision "No" anything that has happened subsequently must be annulled.

(II) Judge A says "Yes"; Judge B (in foil) says "On the Arm"; the President abstains; now the President cannot award a touch since there is doubt as to where the hit was made, but since both judges are agreed that there was contact with the point on the opponent, after the decision "No" anything that has happened subsequently must be annulled.

placed to see the hit—for example, a riposte on the back of a fencer who has run by (*fleched*) or otherwise passed his opponent).

U.S. 103 (addition).—In the emergency case where the jury includes only two judges, the two absent judges shall be deemed to have abstained on all questions of fact.

A doubtful hit is never scored against the contestant who might have received it; but, on the other hand, any hit made subsequently or simultaneously in the same sequence of play (*phrase*) by the fencer who has thus been granted the benefit of the doubt must also be annulled. With regard to a touch made subsequently by the fencer who originally made the doubtful hit, the following alternatives must be kept in mind:

I. If the new touch (remise, redoublement or riposte) is made by a fencer who made the doubtful hit without any hit having been made by his opponent, this new touch *shall be scored*.

II. But if the doubt concerns the surface on which the hit arrived (one "Yes" and one "Yes, but invalid"), no other hit in that phrase can be scored.

III. The same is true if, between the doubtful hit and the new touch by the same contestant, his opponent has made a hit that has been annulled because of the original "benefit of the doubt."

2. *Validity or priority of the hit.* After the jury has decided the materiality of a hit, the President—acting alone and without further consultation of the judges, and by applying the conventional rules for each weapon—shall decide which fencer has alone been touched, whether both are touched (in epee), or whether there is no valid touch.

B. — WITH THE APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF TOUCHES
(For EPEE, see Art. 186-201. The rules for foil are still under experiment, but are set forth as an appendix to Title Two.)

TITLE TWO : FOIL

CHAPTER I — HISTORICAL NOTE

Art.
106

The present rules are in all essential respects the same as those drafted by Mr. Camille Prevost, president of the Academie d'Armes and president of the Technical Section for Foil of the French National Federation. They also conform to the rules drafted by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat for "Les Armes de France," to the various earlier international regulations adopted by the different countries affiliated to the F.I.E., and to the Franco-Italian rules.

They were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the F.I.E.'s Foil Commission at a meeting in Paris under the presidency of General G. Ettore, representative of the Italian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

The present rules simply define and complete those adopted in 1914.

The special rules for judging foil with the electrical judging apparatus are still under experiment and therefore have not been included in this codification.

U.S. 106—The electrical foil rules used at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne appear as an appendix to this title.

CHAPTER II — GROUND RULES

107
108

Foil competitions shall be held indoors on linoleum or cork strips.

The width of the field of play shall be between 1.80 m. (5' 11") and 2 m. (6' 7").

U.S. 108 (note).—For non-championship events in the United States, the minimum width of the field of play may be 3 feet.

109

The length of the field of play shall be 12 m. (39' 4"), so that each contestant, after being placed at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line, shall have at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 4 m. (13' 2") without crossing the rear limit with both feet.

U.S. 109 (modification).—In the United States, the length of the field of play for foil shall be 40 feet (12.19 m.)

110

Five lines should be drawn on the field of play parallel to its width: the center line; the two "on guard" lines, each at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line; and the warning lines at 1 m. (3' 3") from the rear limits of the field of play.

U.S. 110.—When the official A.F.L.A. strip is used, the lines shall conform to the international rules. See diagram following U.S. 22-23(a). When the A.F.L.A. minimum-length strip is used, the "on guard" lines shall be drawn 6 feet from the center line, and the warning lines shall be drawn 3 feet from the rear limits of the field of play. See diagram following U.S. 22-23(b). The fencer who retreats off the minimum field of play for the first time with both feet shall be given a "one-yard" warning and shall be placed back on guard with his rear foot at the warning line. If he then again crosses the rear limit with both feet, he shall be considered touched. (See also Art. 75-76.)

CHAPTER III — WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING

A. — WEAPONS (See also Art. 29-43)

§ 1. General specifications.

(1) The total weight of the foil ready for use shall be, everything included, less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

(2) The total maximum length of the foil shall be less than 1,100 mm. (43.307").

§ 2. The blade.

The blade shall be of rectangular or square cross-section, and may be very flexible without, however, being too whippy.

The maximum length of the blade shall be less than 900 mm. (35.433").

§ 3. The guard.

The maximum diameter of the guard shall be less than 120 mm. (4.724"), that is to say, the guard must pass through a circular gauge which has a diameter of 120 mm.

The "bell" guard may be replaced by a double-loop guard, provided that the front face of the latter be covered with leather, and that the construction is so arranged that the opponent's point cannot be caught in it.

Off-center mountings are forbidden.

§ 4. Attachments and martingales.

Binding the wrist and hand of the fencer to the hilt of the weapon, with even a long leash, is allowed. *Otherwise the martingale is obligatory.*

§ 5. Pointes d'arret and buttons.

Except where the contrary is specified in advance, the foil shall not be fitted with a *pointe d'arret*. *The tip must be covered.*

U.S. 119—The tip of the foil must be blunt and flat, forming a button forged with the blade; its minimum diameter shall be 5 mm. (0.197"). The covering may be adhesive tape or other soft material forming a pad.

B. — EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

For foil the mask shall be so shaped that the lower portion is not more than 2 cm. (0.787") below the chin. The bib must be white or of a very pale buff color.

The glove may be lightly padded. The use of enormous gloves constituting a shield, and of excessive large cuffs, which in a measure may also shield the target, is prohibited.

Women's clothing shall include loose (full) breeches closed below the knee, or the divided skirt, and breast protectors of metal or other rigid material inside the jacket.

For both men and women, when the jacket is cut horizontally at the waist, the lower edge must overlap the breeches or divided skirt by at least 10 cm. (4") when the fencer is in the "on guard" position.

CHAPTER IV — THE CONVENTIONS OF FOIL FENCING

A. — METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

Art.
124

The foil is a thrusting weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon shall be made with the point and with the point only.

B. — TARGET

§ 1. Limitation of the target.

125

The target extends from the top of the neck to the lines of the groin in front, and to a horizontal line across the top of the hip bones on the back and sides, which joins the top of the lines of the groin, excluding the arms up to the shoulders, where the seams of the jacket should cross the tip of the humerus. For women the lower limit of the target is a line across the top of the hip bones. (See silhouette, Art. 437 and 438).

§ 2. Extension of the target.

126

Hits arriving on a part of the body outside the target shall nevertheless be counted as valid touches if the fencer, either intentionally or as a result of an abnormal position, substitutes a normally invalid surface for a part of the target:

(a) Whenever the fencer, either permanently or temporarily, has covered—that is, has shielded—the target with a part of his body which is outside the target;

(b) Whenever as a result of a change of position the fencer has received upon a part outside the target a hit that, without such displacement, would have reached the target, that is, whenever he has, even by a movement perfectly regular in itself, substituted an invalid surface for a part of the target.

127

The displacements of the Italian method of fencing, “passata sotto,” “in quartata,” etc., are formally authorized, and in such actions the hand of the fencer may come into contact with the ground.

But it shall be understood that, in the event of a displacement in the low line known as “passata sotto,” the fencer shall be considered validly touched in foil if he receives on his head a hit which otherwise would have reached the target, since he has in fact, as a result of the displacement, received on a normally invalid surface a hit that, except for such displacement, would have arrived on the target; in other words, the fencer, as a result of the displacement, has substituted an invalid surface for a part of the target.

On the other hand, in the event of a side-step or “in quartata,” the fencer who is hit on the mask or on the legs is not considered validly touched in foil because, if he had not side-stepped, the hit in question would not have arrived on the target; in other words, he has not substituted an invalid surface for part of the target; he has only altered the position of an invalid surface.

§ 3. Consequences.

128

Any hit made directly by one of the contestants on a part of the body other than the target shall stop the sequence of play and shall annul all hits which are scored thereafter.

129

U.S. 129 (clarification).—The F.I.E. Congress of 1956 repealed Article 129 which provided that hits arriving on an invalid surface as a result of the parry do not stop the phrase or annul anything thereafter. The consequence of this amendment is that hits clearly arriving on an invalid surface *after* a parry shall have the same effect as remises which arrive outside the target. On the other hand hits clearly arriving on an invalid surface at the same time or

together with the parry (faulty or insufficient parry), are considered to have arrived directly.

C. — CLINCHES AND RUNNING ATTACKS

In foil, when a fencer systematically causes the clinch (*corps a corps*)—even without violence or unnecessary roughness—he shall be penalized one touch after a single warning during the bout. This rule shall be equally applicable to any running attacks (*feches*) which systematically end in a clinch.

U.S. 130 (clarifications).—(a) In the United States a fencer is deemed to cause the clinch “systematically” when the clinch is an intentional consequence of his method or system of play. Accordingly a warning should normally be given on the first offense. Only a clinch that results from a fall or other accident, or one caused by the forward movement of both fencers, is excluded from this rule.

(b) In the United States, the one-touch penalty against the offending fencer shall be applicable, after a warning, to each repetition of the clinch during the same bout.

D. — REVERSAL OF POSITIONS

Fencers are allowed to displace the target, side-step, turn or half-turn, but the reversal of positions is forbidden; that is, if the original positions are actually reversed, the contestants shall be put back in the positions they occupied at the moment the reversing movement was begun.

E.—NUMBER OF TOUCHES AND TIME LIMITS

In foil, men’s bouts shall usually be fought for five touches and women’s bouts for four touches; and the time limit of the bout shall be 10 and 8 minutes respectively; while in direct-elimination events, victory in two bouts, each of the standard number of touches and time limits, shall usually be required.

If at the end of the time limit one of the fencers has received more touches than the other, there shall be added to his score the number needed to reach the maximum, and the same number of touches shall be added to his opponent’s score; if at the end of the time limit both contestants have received the same number of touches, they shall both be considered to have received the maximum number of touches *minus one*, and they shall fence for the last touch without limit of time.

F. — OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT OF WAY

(a) Every correctly executed attack must be parried or completely evaded,¹ and the orderly sequence of play (*phrase d’armes*) must be followed. The fencer who departs from this rule does so at his own risk.

In order to judge the correctness of an attack, the following points must be considered:

1. If the attack starts when the opponent is “in line” (i.e., “with the arm extended and the point threatening the target”), the attacker must first deflect his opponent’s weapon;²

U.S. 134 (1) (clarification).—This rule applies even if the attacker is also “in line” at the start of the attack.

2. If, upon attempting to find the opponent’s blade to deflect it, the attacker fails to find the blade (*derobement* or *trompement*), the right of way passes to the opponent;

¹ On the question of evading hits, see above, “Extension of the Target,” Art. 126 ff. Presidents must watch carefully, so that a mere grazing of the blades shall not be construed as sufficient to deflect the opponent’s blade.

3. If the attack starts when the opponent is not "in line," the attack may proceed by a direct thrust, by disengage, or cut-over (*coupe*); or it may be preceded by one or more efficient feints which impel the opponent to attempt to parry.

(b) The parry gives a fencer the right to riposte; the simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but to annul any subsequent action by the attacker it must be executed immediately, without indecision or delay.

(c) If a composite attack is made, and the opponent finds the blade during one of the feints, he acquires the right to riposte.

(d) Against composite attacks, the opponent has the right to stop-hit; but to be valid the stop-hit must precede the conclusion of the attack by a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*); that is, the stop-hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

G. — JUDGING OF TOUCHES

§ 1. Preliminary Note.

In explaining and applying the conventions, it is desirable to make clear the following: When, during a sequence of play (*phrase*), both fencers are hit simultaneously, there is either a simultaneous action (*tempo commune*) or a double hit (*coup double, in contro*).

The first, which is due to simultaneous conception and execution of the attack by both fencers, may fairly be regarded as involving no fault on either side; in this case, the hits exchanged are annulled even if one of them has landed off the target.

The double hit (*coup double*), on the other hand, is the result of a distinctly faulty action on the part of one of the fencers; consequently the fencer who is in the wrong cannot derive any advantage therefrom.

Accordingly, when a double hit occurs, and there is not a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*) between the two hits:

§ 2. The defender alone is counted as touched—

(a) If he makes a stop-hit against a simple attack;

(b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts to evade the hit (*passata sotto, in quartata*, etc.) and does not succeed in so doing;

(c) If, after a successful parry, he makes a momentary pause which gives his opponent the right to retake the attack (redoublement, remise, or reprise of attack);

(d) If, during a composite attack, he makes a stop-hit without having the advantage of a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*);

(e) If, having been "in line" (arm extended and point threatening the target) and having been subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (*prise de fer*) which deflects his weapon, he thrusts or replaces his blade in line instead of parrying a direct action made by his opponent.

§ 3. The attacker alone is counted as touched—

(a) If he attacks when his opponent is "in line" (arm extended and point threatening the target) without deflecting the opponent's blade;¹

(b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (because the opponent has escaped or deceived) and he continues the attack;

(c) If, during a composite attack, his opponent finds the blade, and he continues the attack while the opponent ripostes immediately;

¹ Presidents shall watch carefully, so that a mere grazing of the blades shall not be construed as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.

(d) If, during a composite attack, he makes a momentary pause, during which time his opponent makes a stop-hit, and he continues the attack;

(e) If, during a composite attack, he receives a stop-hit that arrives a *fencing tempo* (*temps d'escrime*) before the conclusion of the attack;

(f) If he makes a hit by remise, redoublement, or reprise of attack after his opponent's parry that has been followed by an immediate, simple riposte, executed in a single fencing tempo and without withdrawal of the arm.

§ 4. The fencers are replaced on guard [without a score]—

Whenever the President, in case of a double hit (*coup double*), is unable to determine clearly which fencer is at fault, he shall annul the hits and replace the contestants on guard.

(One of the most difficult cases to judge arises when there is a stop-hit which has a doubtful time advantage against the final movement of a composite attack. In general, in such a case, the double hit results from the simultaneous fault of both fencers, which justifies the replacement on guard. The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution, or the making of feints which are not sufficiently effective, while the fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop-hit.)

Appendix to Title Two Special Rules for Electrical Foil

(Adopted by the F.I.E. for the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and approved by the A.F.L.A. for use in the United States)

I. Registration Apparatus

1. The fixed electrical equipment (central apparatus, connections, reels) must be approved by the F.I.E.'s Electrical Registration Commission. The apparatus must be submitted in complete form for testing under conditions agreed to by the Commission at least six months before the event at which the equipment is to be used. The apparatus must be accompanied by a detailed diagram of its construction.

(A) Central Apparatus

2. The central apparatus must satisfy the following operating requirements:

(a) It must register a hit whenever there is a break in contact for 1/100 of a second or less;

(b) It must give a signal, red on one side (preferably on the right) and green on the other side, for a touch arriving on valid target; and another signal, white on both sides (preferably at the extreme ends of the apparatus), for a hit arriving on an invalid surface;

(c) The acoustical signals shall consist of either a single bell attached to each optical signal, or a buzzer limited to a duration of two seconds. This time limit may be the same as that provided below for the blocking of the apparatus, which must be between one and two seconds. The sound must be the same on both sides;

(d) After the registration of an invalid hit, the apparatus must permit the registration of a touch on the target on the same side;

(e) On the other hand, after the registration of a touch on the target, the apparatus must not register a subsequent hit on invalid surface on the same side;

(f) The apparatus must not register the priority of a hit against one fencer in relation to a hit against the other;

(g) However, after the lapse of a certain interval of time "x" (which has no reference to the "fencing tempo" that is the basis of judging according to the con-

ventions of foil play) following the first registration signal, the apparatus must be blocked against the registration of any subsequent hit;

(h) The exact length of the interval of time "x" shall be determined in practice. The central apparatus must permit adjustment of this interval between the limits of one and two seconds;

(i) A hit on the metallic strip or upon the metallic parts of the opponent's foil must not be registered by the apparatus and must not prevent the registration of a simultaneous hit by opponent;

(j) The apparatus must be able to withstand a momentary increase in resistance in the closed circuit of the foils of up to 250 Ohms without causing the registration of the invalid signal.

3. The operating buttons must be located on the upper or the front surfaces of the apparatus.

The signal lamps must be located on the upper surface of the apparatus so that they may be visible at the same time to the fencers, the judges, and the apparatus manager.

It is recommended that provision be made for supplementary lamps outside of the apparatus, in order to increase the visibility of the signals. This provision is compulsory for official F.I.E. championships. The lamps shall be placed approximately 1.80 m. (6 feet) above the ground or strip.

(B) Reels, Cables, and Metallic Strip

4. The reels, cables, and metallic strip are identical with those used for epee.

However, due to the fundamental difference in principle between the registration system for epee and for foil, only reels in excellent condition can be used for foil.

5. The electrical connection of the various parts of the apparatus to the three prongs of the reels and cables shall be as follows: The external prong, 15 mm. from center, for the metallic vest; the central prong for the foil wire; the external prong, 20 mm. from center, for the body of the weapon and the metallic strip.

U.S. I-B-5.—An amphenol connection is standard for all competitions in the United States. (See Title III, U.S. 174.) Fencers whose body cord is equipped with the standard international plug must provide themselves with an "adapter" so as to effect connection with the amphenol plug of the reel cable.

II. Personal Equipment of Fencers

(A) General Provisions

6. The personal equipment of fencers, consisting of the electrical foil, the metallic (conductive) vest, and body cord, must be approved by the representative of the F.I.E.'s Electrical Registration Commission at the place of the competition, or by the special commissioner required by Article 44 of the Technical Rules of Fencing.

(B) Electrical Foil

7. The foil is wired with a single electrical wire which is in permanent contact with the *pointe d'arret*.

With the weapon at rest, the *pointe d'arret* is also in contact with the body of the foil. When there is a hit, this contact is broken.

8. The pressure required to be exerted upon the *pointe d'arret* before the apparatus registers a hit must be more than 500 grams; that is, such a weight must be supported by the spring of the point.

9. The distance that the point must recede before the apparatus registers a hit, called the "lighting stroke," may be infinitesimal. The total recession of the point must not exceed 1 mm.

10. The attachment of the point to the blade must be made by threading of 3.0x0.6 or 3.5x0.6 mm., and the length of the threading must be at least 5 mm. for a steel point. For points made of light alloys, special approval must be obtained from the F.I.E. Electrical Registration Commission. The only acceptable blades are those which provide a cylindrical tip, at least 3 mm. in diameter and long enough to permit the threading required above. All soldering or brazing operations are forbidden.

11. The single wire passes along a groove running the length of the blade. At the place where the wire passes, the width of the groove must not exceed 0.5 mm., and its depth must not exceed 0.6 mm., measured on the diameter of the core of the threading, so as to weaken the section of the blade as little as possible.

The use of tubular blades which allow the wire to pass on the inside may be authorized, after test by the F.I.E. Electrical Registration Commission, if such blades satisfy the requirements of the general rules, particularly with respect to safety and flexibility.¹

The use of fibreglas blades in international competitions is prohibited.

12. The electrical resistance of the single wire of the foil, measured from the tip to the plug, must not exceed 3.5 Ohms.

The resistance of the circuit of the foil itself, measured from any point of contact on the blade or guard to the foil prong, must not exceed 2.0 Ohms.

The insulation between two prongs, when the contact of the button is broken, must be not less than 50,000 Ohms.

13. The diameter of the body of the button must be between 5 and 7 mm. The moving surface of the *pointe d'arret* consists of a half-sphere of the same diameter as the body of the button. The hemispherical surface may be toothed according to the rules applicable to the epee *pointe d'arret*, adjusted to the smaller diameter.

14. The pommel of the foil shall be completely covered with insulating material; the same is required for the body of the button and the foil blade up to a distance of 150 mm. from the button.

This insulation may be provided either by a Chatterton ribbon or Scotch adhesive, or by a varnish.

15. The installations behind the guard must be arranged in such a manner that it is impossible for the fencer to manipulate or modify the contacts while fencing.

(C) Body Cord

16. The body cord encloses three wires with a maximum resistance between plugs of 0.5 Ohms.

17. At the back of the fencer, the body cord ends in a three-pronged connector of the type used for epee, and wired as follows: The external prong 15 mm. from center is connected to the metallic vest; the central prong is connected with the foil wire; and the external prong 20 mm. from center is connected with the body of the foil.

U.S. II-C-17.—An amphenol connection is standard for all competitions in the United States. See I-B-5 above and Art. U.S. 174.

18. The system of connecting the wires to the metallic vest and the foils is unrestricted, provided that it insures contact without possibility of interruption in the course of combat.

¹ As of March 1957, neither the F.I.E. nor the A.F.L.A. has formally approved specifications for tubular blades, but in the United States their use has been permitted on an experimental basis.

(D) *Metallic Vest*

19. The conductive surface of the vest must completely cover, without exception, the target of the fencer, whether he be on the "on guard" position or on the lunge. It must not be separated from the underclothing.

The general foil rules are amended so that the bib of the mask shall not be valid target. However, when the fencer is in the customary "on guard" position, the bib may not descend more than 2 cm. below the base of the collar.

20. The metallic cloth of the vest must satisfy, from the point of view of conductivity, the following conditions:

(a) The electrical resistance, measured from any point of contact to the appropriate prong in the body cord, must not exceed 1 Ohm.

(b) The metallic cloth shall be tested with the aid of a 500-gram weight having a hemispherical tip with a radius of 4 mm. Such a weight, when placed on end on top of the metallic cloth resting upon a soft substance, must insure contact in a continuous manner with a maximum resistance of 1.5 Ohm.

(c) The non-metallic jacket must be constructed with an inner lining which doubles the cloth thickness in the sleeve and the flank in the region of the armpit.

21. The Bout Committee (*Directoire Technique*) and the Presidents of Juries must require:

- a rigorous check on the length of the bib;
- that a metallic vest be adjusted rigorously to the target according to the rules;
- that the metallic collar shall have a minimum height of 2 cm. around the entire circumference.

III. Organization of Competitions and Judging of Hits

(A) *General Provisions*

22. The provisions of Articles 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 165, 167, 170, 171, 175, 176 to 184, 186 to 201, 210 to 213, 214 to 222, of the F.I.E.'s 1955 Technical Rules of Fencing for the judging of electrical epee are applicable, by substituting where necessary the word "foil" for the word "epee," and by taking into account the provisions of these special rules.

(B) *Judging of Hits*

23. With respect to the materiality of hits, the apparatus alone controls. Except as a result of the application of penalties under the rules, a fencer cannot be declared to be touched unless the apparatus has registered a touch in regular form.

24. With respect to the priority of one hit in relation to another, the director of combat shall judge the question by applying the conventions of foil fencing, keeping in mind that the central apparatus establishes only the materiality of hits.

25. In order to make proper use of the indications of the apparatus in making a decision, the President must be thoroughly familiar with the principles governing the apparatus, to wit:

- if the two signals, colored and white, are lit on the same side, the invalid hit has preceded the valid one;
- except for this, the apparatus does not indicate any priority of one signal over another.

26. If the signals are lit on both sides, and if the President does not have a clear idea with respect to the hits within the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) that caused the signals, so that he is unable to determine with exactitude their relative priority, it is preferable to place the fencers back on guard.

Even if no signal has registered, the President has the right to stop the combat whenever the latter becomes confused and it is no longer possible to analyze the *phrase d'armes*.

The President of course shall not take into account any signals resulting from hits arriving outside the authorized periods of combat, or arriving contrary to the rules upon the surface of any object whatsoever.

(C) *Failure of the Apparatus*

27. If the electrical apparatus does not function according to the rules, the President must annul the last touch awarded in favor of a fencer each time that it is determined that the signal in question might have registered without the scoring of a hit, or that a hit made by the opponent might not have been correctly registered.

Such a determination cannot be made, of course, except by tests made under the conditions enumerated in the rules for electrical epee.

(D) *Penalties*

28. The fencer who appears on the strip with a metallic vest that has already been rejected because it does not completely cover the target, or which has holes that may cause valid touches to be registered as invalid, shall be compelled, if these defects cannot be remedied, to finish the competition with a vest furnished by the organizing committee. In this case, the fencer shall not be heard to complain that such a vest exceeds in coverage his personal target.

29. The fencer who, in order to avoid the registration of a valid hit upon himself, establishes contact between the body of his foil and his conductive vest by pressing the weapon against the vest, shall be warned, and thereafter shall be penalized one touch each time that he repeats the offense in the course of the pool.

(E) *Illegal Weapons*

30. The provisions for epee are applicable to foil. (See Title Three, Art. 181-184.)

(F) *General Regulations*

31. The general rules of the F.I.E. shall apply on all points which are not contradictory to the present special rules.

32. The fencers do not change sides during the bout when the electrical registration apparatus is used.

In bouts between a right-handed and a left-handed fencer, the two opponents shall place themselves so that their chests shall face the president of the jury.

TITLE THREE : EPEE

Art.
145

Important note concerning the present codification of the epee rules: Inasmuch as all international epee competitions are now held with the electrical registration apparatus (and therefore without a jury), all rules applicable to the use of the electrical apparatus are included in this title. Whatever differences exist between these rules and those applicable to the non-electrical epee are shown herein in italics.

CHAPTER I — HISTORICAL NOTE

146

The rules adopted in 1914 coordinated and completed the various epee rules which had existed prior to the foundation of the F.I.E. and had been evolved since 1892 both in France and elsewhere, notably those adopted by:

The Permanent Committee of the Societe d'Escrime a l'Epee de Paris; l'Academie d'Epee; the Societe d'Entrainement a l'Escrime et au Pistolet; and the Armes de France;

The 1905 International Committee, subject to the laws of each country with respect to the application of the rules to the duel;

The Union des Societes Francaises de Sports Athletiques;

The Comite National des Sports;

The French Olympic Committee;

The Organizing Committees for the tournaments held at Nice, on the Riviera, at Ostend, etc.

The present rules only modify in detail the principles approved in 1914.

The basic principles governing competitions held with the electrical registration apparatus were formulated by the Societe d'Escrime de Geneve in 1931.

CHAPTER II — GROUND RULES

147

Epee competitions may be held outdoors.

148

The width of the field of play shall be between 1.80 m. (5' 11") and 2 m. (6' 7").

U.S. 148 (Modification).—For non-championship events in the United States, the minimum width of the field of play may be 3 feet.

149

The length of the field of play shall be 24 m. (78' 9"), so that each competitor, after being placed at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line, shall have at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 10 m. (32' 10") without crossing the rear limit with both feet.

U.S. 149 (Modification).—The length of the field of play shall be 20 m. (65' 8"), so that each contestant's total retreating distance shall be 8 m. (26' 3"). (See diagrams following U.S. 22-23(a) and U.S. 22-23(b), Title I, above.)

150

Five lines should be drawn on the field of play parallel to its width: the center line; the "on guard" lines, each at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line; and the warning lines at 2 m. from the rear limits of the field of play.

U.S. 150—(a) When the official U.S. strip is used, with a full 40-foot field of play between the end zones of the strip, the contestant who retreats off the field of play *with both feet* for the first time will have retreated only 4 m. (half the permissible distance) from his starting position. He shall therefore be brought back to the "on guard" line without penalty. If he then retreats to the warning line, the bout shall be stopped and the "two-meter" warning shall be given. If after the warning, he again crosses the rear limit *with both feet*, he shall be considered touched. (See also Art. 75-76.)

(b) When the A.F.L.A. minimum-length strip is used, the field of play is only 32 feet long, and the effective retreating distance for each contestant is only 10 feet (3.05 m.). A contestant may therefore retreat *twice* off the field of play *with both feet* without penalty (total retreat of 20 feet), and will at that point be entitled to retreat an additional distance of 6' 3". He shall accordingly be given a "two yard" warning and shall be placed back on guard with his rear foot approximately 6 feet in front of the rear limit. If he then again retreats off the rear limit *with both feet*, he shall be considered touched. (See also Art. 75-76.)

For official competitions of the F.I.E. the use of the neutralized metal strip, entirely covering the field of play and its end zones, is obligatory.

The table on which the electrical apparatus is placed should be located well apart, and the President must see to it that its isolation is respected by the officials as well as the contestants and the spectators. A different table should be used by the scorer, time-keeper, etc.

CHAPTER III — REGISTRATION APPARATUS

1. The registration apparatus to be used in official F.I.E. competitions must be approved by the F.I.E. Commission on the Electrical Registration Apparatus. Proposed apparatus must be submitted in complete form, including reels, plugs, etc., for testing by the Commission at a place and on a date agreed on, at least six months before the date of the event. The apparatus must be accompanied by a detailed diagram of construction.

The acceptance of an apparatus by the Commission on the Electrical Registration Apparatus carries no guarantee against defects in construction, and may not be used commercially by the manufacturer in order to promote its sale.

U.S. 153 (additions).—(a) For competitions in the United States, the registration apparatus shall be of a type approved by the appropriate governing body at least two months prior to the date of the event.

(b) At least 24 hours in advance of the event, the Organizing Committee must have on hand a sufficient number of machines (including spares for emergencies) to conduct the event efficiently. These shall be submitted to one or more technicians qualified to certify that the machines are in proper working order.

2. The apparatus must register a double hit whenever two hits are exchanged within 1/20 of a second (maximum interval) and 1/25 of a second (minimum interval). All tolerances for regulation of the apparatus must be within these limits.

3. A hit made on the neutralized strip, or on the metallic parts of a fencer's weapon, shall not be registered by the apparatus and shall not prevent the registration of a touch upon the target made simultaneously by the opponent.

4. The apparatus must not include any device which permits the President to interrupt its operation during the bout.

5. The female plugs of the reel cables, which receive the male plugs of the body

cord at the back of the fencer, shall have a safety device which fulfills the following conditions:

- (a) That the connection cannot be completed if the plugs are not correctly joined;
- (b) That the disconnection of the plugs in the course of the bout will be impossible;
- (c) That each contestant will be able to ascertain that the two foregoing provisions have been complied with.

CHAPTER IV — WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING

A. — FENCER'S WEAPON AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Art. 158 The fencer's armament and personal equipment consists of the electrical weapon and the body cord. The fencer's responsibility for his own armament extends fully to this electrical equipment.

§ 1. General specifications of the weapon.

159 The total weight of the epee, ready for use and everything included, shall be less than 770 grams (27.160 oz.).

160 The total maximum length of the weapon shall be less than 1,100 mm. (43.307").

§ 2. The blade.

161 The blade shall be triangular in section; it shall not cut or whip, nor shall it be too rigid; it shall be as straight as possible; it shall be mounted with the groove uppermost. The curve of the blade shall in any case be less than 10 mm. (0.394"); and shall be permitted only in the vertical plane.

162 The maximum length of the blade shall be less than 900 mm. (35.433").

163 The maximum width of any of the three sides of the blade shall be less than 24 mm. (0.944"), and the blade shall have no abrupt projections.

§ 3. Mounting and martingale.

164 The epee shall be able to pass through a gauge having a diameter of 135 mm. (5.415") and a thickness of between 5 mm. (0.197") and 50 mm. (1.968"); it should be understood, however, that while the weapon is being passed through the gauge the axis of the blade need not be parallel to any specific direction.

165 The body cord shall take the place of the martingale provided that it is securely attached to the epee by a safety device.

§ 4. The Guard.

166 The diameter of the guard shall be less than 135 mm. (5.415"). The curve or depth of the guard shall be between 30 mm. (1.181") and 55 mm. (2.165").

Its eccentricity shall be less than 35 mm. (1.378"). In practice it is sufficient to determine whether the distance between the center of the guard and the point where the broad end of the blade is nearest the center is less than 35 mm.

167 The inner portion of the guard shall be so arranged that it is impossible for the fingers of the fencer to be in contact with the electrical wires while he is fencing.

§ 5. Pointes d'arret and buttons.

(a) For the electrical epee.

168 1. The pressure required to be exerted upon the *pointe d'arret* before the apparatus registers a touch shall be more than 750 grams (26.455 oz.); that is, such a weight must be resisted by the spring of the point.

2. The distance that the *pointe d'arret* must recede in order to cause the electrical apparatus to register a touch (called the "lighting stroke") shall be at least 1 mm. (0.039"). Beyond this point the maximum recession of the *pointe d'arret* shall be 0.5 mm. (0.020").

3. The point shall be cut upon a hemispherical body with a cylindrical prolongation of the same radius and a length equal to 1/5 of such radius.

The teeth shall be formed on the one hand by rings of notches on a plane perpendicular to the axis of the point, and on the other by co-axial cones. The number of such notches shall be at least four. Other prismatic notches, triangular in section, may be cut perpendicular to the rings of notches to form teeth. There is no fixed number for such notches.

The diameter of the hemisphere and its cylindrical prolongation must not exceed the diameter of the base of the button by more than 0.3 mm. (0.013").

It is forbidden to increase the sharpness of the points, by any manufacturing technique, beyond the provisions set forth above. Manufacturers of points who wish to be sure that their products will be acceptable may apply to the Commission enclosing a sample and a detailed diagram of the shape of the point.

4. The electrical button must be affixed to the blade in a manner that gives every guaranty of security. The best methods are those which preserve the customary flat surface at the tip of the blade, or which utilizes special blades ending in a cylindrical metal tip forged with the blade and grooved to receive the electrical button.

The attachment of the button by screwing it on blades which have been cut and threaded is authorized subject to the following conditions:

(a) The attachment to the tip of the blade by metal is the sole method allowed. Attachment by insulating material (fiber, etc.) is forbidden. The electrical *pointe d'arret* must be held in place by two screws diametrically opposed;

(b) All light alloys which bend easily, as well as steel which is too brittle, are forbidden;

(c) All soldering or brazing operations which might possibly affect the temper of the blade are forbidden. Only a highly fusible solder, applied with a soldering iron, may be used to secure the thread;

(d) The tip of the blade cannot at any point have a diameter of less than 3.5 mm. (0.138"), and this without any wrapping, a procedure that is strictly forbidden.

(e) The diameter of the core of the thread at the tip of the blade shall not be less than 2.6 mm. (0.102"). (International Standard Thread 3.5 x 0.6 mm. or U.S. equivalent #6-40). The threading must be very close;

(f) The thread at the tip of the blade must be at least 6 mm. (0.236") in length and must be completely covered by the body of the button;

(g) The groove necessary for the passage of the wires must be cut in such a fashion as to avoid as far as possible any weakening of the section of the blade.

Any epee that does not conform with the foregoing shall not be allowed, no matter how carefully constructed.

(b) For the non-electrical epee.

All systems of *pointes d'arret* with multiple points are permitted, provided they comply with the following conditions:¹

There shall always be under the *pointe d'arret* a metal button forged with the blade; its forward surface shall be flat; in section it shall be at least 5 mm. (0.197") on each side if square, or it shall have a diameter of at least 6 mm.

¹ When the electrical epee is not employed, the point generally used is of the "Sazie" model with three prongs.

(0.236") if round. The total length of the *pointe d'arret*, including its supporting button, shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787").

The length of the points shall be less than 5 mm. (0.197"). The exposed part of the points shall be less than 2 mm. (0.079") long.

The outer surfaces of the points shall be parallel. The diameter of the cylinder circumscribing the points shall be between 6 mm. (0.236") and 8 mm. (0.315").

In order that the multiple points may not form a gouge, the space between the exposed parts of any two consecutive points shall be at least twice the volume of the exposed part of one of the points; and between two consecutive points this space must be filled with waxed thread or other material forming a plug.

Art. 173 § 6. Resistance of Circuit.¹

The electrical resistance of the live circuit of the epee, measured from prong to prong with the *pointe d'arret* depressed, must not be greater than 3 Ohms. The electrical resistance of the ground circuit, measured from any point of contact on the blade or guard to the grounding prong of the epee must not be greater than 2 Ohms. The insulation, measured between any two of the three prongs with the *pointe d'arret* at rest, must be not less than 50,000 Ohms.

174 § 7. The connecting plugs.

In the plugs which connect the fencer to the apparatus, the two external prongs must be at a distance of 20 mm. (0.787") and 15 mm. (0.591") respectively from the central prong. The prong at a distance of 20 mm. must be connected with the guard; the one at a distance of 15 mm. must be connected as directly as possible with the *pointe d'arret*.

U.S. 174 (modification).—An amphenol connection is standard for all competitions in the United States. Reels made in the United States have a female amphenol connector, No. 91-MC3F. A three-pronged male amphenol connector, No. 91-MC3M, is required at the end of the body cord which attaches to the reel. The prongs are clearly numbered 1, 2, and 3. Prong No. 1 must be electrically connected with the guard; prongs No. 2 and 3 must be electrically connected with the *pointe d'arret*. Fencers whose body cord is equipped with the standard international plug must provide themselves with an "adapter" so as to effect connection with the amphenol plug of the reel cable.

175 The use of the same type of plug inside the guard is recommended. However, other connection systems are allowed, provided they are easy to handle and can be readily checked by a simple tool, such as a knife, key, or coin. It must also be possible to apply the *pointe d'arret* of the opponent's weapon easily to the grounding prong of the body cord, so that operating defects can be promptly localized.

176 Every connection system must insure complete contact of the three electrical conductors. It must be impossible to cause even a momentary break in contact as long as the connection is maintained. Further, it must be unnecessary to unscrew nuts or to perform other complex operations in order to disconnect the contacts,

¹ Persons who wish to assemble epees but do not have the facilities for electrical tests are advised that the above specifications have been drafted so that they may be complied with by anyone who exercises due care in his work. It is advisable:

—to deoxidize thoroughly the outer surface of the guard and the surfaces of the contacts on the inside;

—to take care not to destroy the insulation of the wires, especially where they pass along the groove of the blade at the button and at the guard;

—to avoid accumulations of glue in the groove of the blade.

inasmuch as this would lead to excessive delays in the making of tests during a bout.

§ 8. Controls prior to the competitions.

1. Prior to the beginning of competitions at the Olympic Games and at the World Championships, the requirements of Articles 159 to 173 for the operation and regulation of all the electrical apparatus and the accessories to be used shall be checked under the supervision of the Bout Committee.

2. At the Olympic Games and at the World Championship, and preferably at all other important international events, all the epees of all the contestants must be carefully checked before the beginning of the competitions, in order to determine whether they comply with all requirements. This control of equipment shall be provided for by the Bout Committee or by the Organizing Committee.

3. In view of its special importance, particular attention shall be paid by the examiner to the method whereby the electrical button is affixed to the blade (see Art. 171). The examiner shall summarily reject any epee which does not conform to the rules or which presents any peculiarities that render it dangerous. All epees which are not satisfactory and cannot be repaired shall be disassembled before they are returned to the fencers.

4. The members of the F.I.E. Commission on the Electrical Apparatus have the right to control the manner in which the epees shall be checked from an electrical point of view, including the method of affixing the button. They are empowered to change any device which in their opinion does not appear to conform with the requirements of the rules.

§ 9. Weapons not conforming to the rules.

(a) Whenever a weapon check has been provided for prior to a competition, any fencer who appears on the strip with an epee that does not conform to the rules shall be warned on the first occasion; the next time, his epee shall be confiscated for the duration of the event; the third time, the contestant shall be compelled to finish the competition with epees supplied by the organizers at his own expense, risk and peril, unless he can prove that his epee has not been altered since the weapon check and that therefore the check was in error.

U.S. 181 (modification). (See U.S. 45 above.)

(b) When there has been no weapon check prior to a competition, the above penalties cannot be imposed, but each epee that is found not to conform with the rules shall be confiscated and shall not be returned to the fencer until it has been put in order by the repairmen and the fencer has paid the expenses occasioned by the repair.

(c) If an epee is not determined to be contrary to the Rules until after a hit has been registered, this determination is not sufficient to justify the annulment of the touch, but of course this does not prevent the application, if appropriate, of the provisions of Articles 181 and 182.

(d) The provisions of Articles 181, 182 and 183 apply to non-conformity with the special rules for the electrical apparatus. If a case arises of non-conformity of an epee with the general rules, the latter are applicable (Art. 45, 46, 47); that is, the case shall be submitted to the judgment of the disciplinary authorities. In such a case there may thus be also a question as to whether the touch shall be annulled.

B. — CLOTHING

For epee competitions, the wearing of an undergarment, made of at least two thicknesses of hemp cloth and insuring the best possible protection, is obligatory.

CHAPTER V — METHOD OF JUDGING WITH THE ELECTRICAL APPARATUS

Art.
186

§ 1. Use of apparatus.

The epee competitions (both team and individual) at the Olympic Games and the World Championships, and all other international events (unless an exception is announced in advance) shall be fenced with the electrical registration apparatus.

§ 2. Officials.

(a) *The director of combat.*

187

1. Combat is directed by a President having all the duties and powers of the President of the Jury under the general rules. In addition, he is responsible for the strict application of all the articles of these special rules. For official F.I.E. competitions, the President shall be an International President of Jury for Epee and the holder of an international license.

188

2. The President shall place himself opposite the apparatus and shall follow the combat so as to have always a clear view of the two fencers. The fencer who is called first shall place himself always at the right of the President, even in the case of a bout between a right-handed and a left-handed fencer, and the fencers retain their positions throughout the bout (unless the President deems it desirable to decide otherwise).

189

3. As a general rule, and always whenever one of the fencers or his team captain requests it, the President, before placing the contestants on guard for each new bout, shall check the resistance of 750 grams of the epee buttons, and make sure that there is a "lighting stroke" that appears to him sufficient. In case of doubt, he shall order a formal re-testing of the epee in question.

190

4. The President shall superintend the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on his own initiative or when asked to do so by a contestant, he shall order the necessary tests to check the apparatus and to localize any defects that may be found. He shall prevent the fencers from interfering with the investigation by unauthorized weapon tests or changes of weapon.

191

5. Each time that the President deems it advisable, and whenever either contestant shall request it, he shall consult the experts on the operation of the electrical apparatus (see par. *c* below).

192

6. If a fencer interferes with the normal course of the competition by repeated and unfounded requests for testing equipment, or for consultation with the experts, the President shall ignore his requests and finally, after one warning, shall penalize him by declaring a touch against him.

(b) *The apparatus manager*

193

1. An apparatus manager shall be in charge of the operation of the electrical apparatus. For the position of apparatus manager, the Organizing Committee on its own responsibility shall choose a qualified person who shall watch the operation of the apparatus with careful attention, in order to be able to advise the President as to what the apparatus has registered and to warn him, even during the course of combat, as to any abnormality in the functioning of the apparatus.

194

2. During combat, the apparatus manager shall remain clearly apart from the apparatus and shall not touch it except when directed to do so by the President.

(c) *Experts*

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1. At every tournament, the Bout Committee or the Organizing Committee shall designate Experts in matters relating to electrical registration. These experts

should be chosen from among the fencers who are competent with respect to the operation of the equipment used.

Art.
196

2. The experts may be consulted, separately or together, by the President regarding all questions relative to electrical registration. They shall assist him in the determination of facts concerning the equipment and in the localization of breakdowns that may occur, and shall explain to him the facts that have been determined and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom.

197

3. The experts may also be called upon to furnish the same explanations to the Bout Committee, the Organizing Committee, the Jury of Appeal, or the Central Office of the F.I.E.

198

4. The experts have only an advisory voice in all cases, and may not express an opinion in cases in which a fencer of their own nationality is involved.

(d) *Repairmen.*

The Organizing Committee shall, for each international tournament, insure the presence of competent repairmen to remedy the damage that may result during the competitions to the personal equipment of the fencers, and if necessary to the rest of the electrical apparatus.

199

(e) *Ground judges.*

In the lesser events, where neutralized strips are not used, it is necessary to appoint, for each strip, two ground judges who shall take their positions according to the direction of the President, on each side of the strip, and who will constitute a jury with him to decide whether a hit registered by the apparatus was made "on the ground" or not. Each ground judge should observe the combat as a whole and should follow the contestants in their movements on the strip.

200

Even when a neutralized strip is used, the President may, if he deems it necessary, appoint ground judges to watch for hits that may land upon the ground outside the limits of the strip, or upon the fencer himself, or upon any other object than his opponent.

201

CHAPTER VI — CONVENTIONS OF EPEE FENCING

A. — METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

The epee is a thrusting weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon shall be made with the point, and with the point only.

202

B. — THE TARGET

The fencer is considered vulnerable everywhere, without exception. (See diagram, Art. 440).

203

Therefore, every hit shall count as a touch regardless of the part of the body (trunk, limbs or head), the clothing, or the equipment, reached.

C. — REVERSAL OF POSITIONS

Movements which result in a reversal of the contestants' original positions are allowed, provided that they are executed without jostling the opponent. The reversal shall be accomplished if it is more than half complete when the President gives the command "Halt!"

204

In epee, if a reversal of positions is properly executed and accomplished, the fencers are replaced on guard in the place which they formerly occupied, without

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Art. 206 reversal of their previous positions, but with allowance for the gain or loss of ground which has resulted from this movement.
With the non-electrical epee, the contestants are replaced on guard with their previous positions reversed.

D. — CLINCH

207 In epee, the contestant who either by running attacks (fleches) or by vigorous forward movements, brings about a clinch (*corps a corps*), even several times in succession—without violence or unnecessary roughness—does not violate any fundamental conventions of fencing and is not guilty of any irregularity.¹

E. — PRIORITY OF HITS

208 The epee is exclusively a combat weapon; therefore, when both fencers are hit, the question of priority is raised only when there is an *appreciable difference of time* between the two hits; if no such difference exists, there is a "double hit," that is, a touch against each contestant (see Art. 223 and 224).

F. — JUDGING

§ 1. Fundamental principle.

209 The registration apparatus alone shall indicate whether or not there has been a hit. Under no circumstances may the President declare a competitor to be touched unless the apparatus has properly registered a touch (except as a penalty as provided in the rules).

§ 2. Annulment of hits.

210 On the other hand, the President shall annul a hit registered by the apparatus in the cases enumerated below.

(a) Hits made before "Play!" or after "Halt!"

211 The President shall annul any hit registered which result from thrusts begun outside the authorized periods of combat.

(b) Hits outside target.

212 The President shall annul any hit registered whenever such registration is the result of the contact of the epee buttons, or a hit made on the ground outside the neutralized strip, on the reel cable, on the body of the fencer who made the thrust, or in general, on any object other than the opponent or his equipment, including his body cord.

213 In competitions fenced without the neutralized strip, the jury (which is constituted as provided above in Art. 200) shall decide the question of hits outside the target according to the general rules, each ground judge having one vote and the President a vote and a half. If the apparatus registers a double hit, and on one side there is a valid touch and on the other side a hit on invalid surface, the valid touch shall be counted.²

¹ The running attack ending systematically in a clinch, referred to in this article, must not be confused with the running attack resulting in a collision which jostles the opponent, which is considered an act of unnecessary roughness in all three weapons and is penalized as such.

On the other hand, the running attack which goes past the opponent without a clinch is not forbidden; the President should not call "Halt!" too soon, in order not to annul a possible riposte; and if in making such a running attack the fencer systematically crosses the side limits of the field of play, he must be penalized as provided above (Art. 79).

² Only the two judges who have each one vote, and the President who has a vote and a

(c) Failure of the apparatus.

1. Principles.

The President shall annul the last hit registered in combat, but never more than the last hit, each time that a failure of the apparatus places the fencer against whom the hit was registered at a disadvantage. This failure shall be determined solely by tests, made immediately after combat was halted, under the supervision of the President and without any change whatever in the equipment used.

It is not the purpose of these tests to reconstruct what actually happened in combat (since this has no bearing on the decision), but only to determine whether there was a material possibility of error in the judgment by reason of the failure: accordingly, the location of the failure, within the over-all electrical apparatus including the personal equipment of one or the other fencer, is also unimportant in reaching a decision. The annulment of the last hit is granted to the fencer who is placed at a disadvantage by the failure, provided of course that he is the one against whom the hit was registered.

The fencer who, without being asked to do so by the President, makes any modification in, or changes his equipment before a decision is rendered, shall lose his right to the annulment of a hit. Similarly, after going back on guard and after combat has been effectively recommenced,¹ a fencer can no longer claim the annulment of a touch registered against him during a previous period of combat.

After the decision has been rendered, tests shall be made for the purpose of locating the defect in order to repair it. In this case, of course, all necessary modifications and changes of equipment can be made.

For the annulment of a hit, it is not necessary that the failure found be repeated with every thrust, but it is essential that the failure be established beyond doubt at least once.

2. Specific instances.

The cases of failure, determined by tests as previously stated, that may justify the annulment of the last registered hit, are the following:

(1) If a thrust upon the guard of the fencer against whom the hit has registered causes the apparatus to register a hit;

(2) If a hit properly made by the fencer against whom the hit has registered does not cause the apparatus to register a hit;

(3) If the apparatus fortuitously registers a hit on the side of the fencer against whom a hit has registered; for example, as a result of a beat on the blade, or any movement of the opponent, or vibrations on the strip that are transmitted to the central apparatus, or as a result of any cause other than a regular hit;

(4) If the registration of a hit scored by the fencer against whom a hit has registered:

—does not prevent the registration of a subsequent hit made by his opponent after a lapse of time greater than that required for the double hit;

—is annulled by a subsequent hit made by his opponent.

half, shall decide whether or not the hit has arrived outside the target. If they cannot reach a majority decision (e.g. 3 abstentions, or the two judges of different opinions and the President abstaining), the hit must be considered doubtful and must be annulled. In no circumstances may the President take into account the opinion of other persons.

¹ The fact that fencers have gone back on guard and that the command "Play!" has been given, or even the maintenance of a passive attitude by both fencers after this command, does not mean that the bout has been effectively recommenced. In order that combat be effectively recommenced it is necessary that the fencers shall have truly engaged in a sequence of play which might have affected the equipment used.

In applying these rules, the following points must be kept in mind:

(I) If incidents (1) and (2) occur as a result of a disconnection of the contact plugs of the fencer's body cord, either near the hand or at his back, they cannot justify the annulment of the hit registered. However, if the safety device prescribed in Art. 157 is out of order, or is missing, the fencer cannot be held responsible for the connection on his back, and therefore the annulment of the hit should be granted in case of disconnection on the back;

(II) The fact that on a fencer's epee, on the guard, on the blade, or elsewhere, there are large or small insulated areas of oxidation, glue, paint, or other matter on which a hit will register, cannot justify the annulment of hits registered against such fencer;

(III) The fact that the fencer against whom a hit has registered has broken his blade cannot *alone* justify the annulment of the hit, unless the hit is the result of a thrust initiated by the opponent after "Halt!" or after the latter could have become aware of the damage which occurred. However, a check shall be made to determine whether there is, coincidentally, some other defect in the apparatus which may in itself justify the annulment of the hit. In order to do this, the broken end of the blade shall be examined, and tests shall be made by substituting an epee in good working order for the broken weapon. If the broken tip cannot be found, the touch must be annulled.

(IV) In the case where a fencer tears the metallic mesh of the neutralized strip by a hit on the ground, and at the same time the apparatus registers a touch against his opponent, the touch must be annulled. The President shall watch the condition of the neutralized strip and shall not tolerate the existence of holes which may confuse the judgment of hits. The Organizing Committee must take the necessary steps to insure rapid repair of the neutralized strip.

(d) *Penalties.*

Any contestant who, deliberately or through negligence, abuses the above rules governing annulment of hits, shall be liable to penalties. Thus, for example:

1. Any contestant who, during combat, voluntarily places his point on the ground outside the strip, or on the strip itself when the latter is not neutralized, on his own body or on any surface other than his opponent, with the object of causing the apparatus to register, shall—after a single warning for the entire pool in which he is engaged—be penalized either by one touch for every offense of this kind thereafter or by the application of disciplinary sanctions;

2. Each time that, after one of the incidents described above has occurred, the defect has been traced to the personal equipment (epee or body cord) of the fencer, the President shall warn the contestant as to the need of repairing or replacing the equipment in question;

3. If, during the same pool, the fencer again appears on the strip with equipment that has the same defects and causes the same incident during combat (except in case of damage to the parts of the epee in front of the guard which may be the result of combat), the President shall confiscate this equipment, which shall be returned to the fencer only after it has been repaired by competent repairmen and after reimbursement of the expenses occasioned by the repair;

4. Furthermore, in case of repetition in the course of the same pool, the fencer shall lose his rights to the annulment of hits registered, unless he can prove extenuating circumstances (which shall be carefully verified);

5. In the event of an incident under (3) of Article 219, fortuitous registration caused by the equipment of the fencer (possibly a case involving a more serious fault, since the defects in the fencer's equipment may be to his own advantage).

the confiscation of the defective equipment shall be conclusive for the duration of the competition; and, as a penalty in case of a repeated offense, the fencer shall be required to finish the competition with equipment that is entirely (epee and body cord) supplied to him by the organizers at the expense, risk and peril of the contestant, unless the latter can prove extenuating circumstances (which shall be carefully verified);

6. If the President observes that a fencer against whom a hit has registered acts in such a way as to damage his own equipment in order to obtain the annulment of a hit, or that he has previously arranged his equipment so as to be able at will to cause either the registration of the apparatus or to cause his equipment to appear defective, he shall confiscate the equipment used by the fencer and shall refer the case immediately to the Bout Committee or the Organizing Committee, who shall have the experts examine the matter from the electrical point of view. Thereafter, in an appropriate instance, the case shall be submitted to the Jury of Appeal which may impose all the penalties provided in the rules.

§ 3. Judging of Touches.

1. Whenever in a sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) both fencers are hit simultaneously, or else with a difference in time which is less than the interval between 1/20th and 1/25th of a second, there is a double hit and both contestants shall be declared touched.

In judging without the electrical registration apparatus, the President alone shall decide whether there is a difference in time, sufficient to justify a decision on priority, or a double hit. If he has no opinion, he must declare a double hit.

U.S. 224 (addition).—(a) *In epee bouts without the electrical apparatus, the use of coloring matter, to assist the jury in establishing the materiality of a hit, is authorized provided that such coloring matter be of such consistency and be applied in such a manner that only those touches which arrive clearly with the point shall leave any mark, while flat hits shall leave no mark whatsoever. A red marking fluid, soluble in vinegar or other weak acid, is preferred for use as coloring matter.*

(b) *When coloring matter is used to assist the jury, the presence or absence of a mark on one or both of the contestants shall serve at most as an indication to be interpreted by the members of the jury as they see fit; it is under no circumstances to be accounted absolute proof that a touch has or has not been scored. Each member of the jury must give his opinion in accordance with the rules.*

In one-touch epee, the double hit counts as a defeat for each fencer; in multiple-touch epee, when a bout ends with an equality of touches, either because of a double hit or because of expiration of the time limit, the two contestants shall fence-off for one or more hits without limit of time until there is a decisive touch. The touch or touches received or given in this fence-off shall not be scored, so that in the case of a three-touch bout, for example, the score of the winner shall be entered as V/3, and that of the loser as D/3.

2. When the President is of the opinion that there is a double hit, but that he should annul the double hit because the touch against the fencer who is leading is doubtful, while the touch against his opponent is certain, the fencer who is leading shall have the right to choose whether the double hit shall be scored or annulled.

For example: In a three-touch bout, A is leading 2-0 against B. The apparatus then registers a double hit (A would thus win 3-1); but a defect is discovered which is to the disadvantage of A only. A then has the right to demand that the double hit shall be scored.

CHAPTER III — WEAPONS, CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT

A. — WEAPONS

§ 1. General specifications.

The total weight of the sabre ready for use, everything included, shall be less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

The total maximum length of the weapon shall be less than 1,050 mm. (41.338").

§ 2. The blade.

The blade shall have a maximum length of 880 mm. (34.646") and a minimum width, which must be at the button, of 5 mm. (0.197"). Its minimum thickness, immediately below the button, shall be 1.2 mm. (0.047"). The tip shall be rounded. Blades which are too rigid or too whippy are forbidden, as are sabres having shapes out of the ordinary. If there is a curve, it must be a distinct and continuous curve of less than 40 mm. (1.575") deflection. Blades with a hooked tip or those that curve in the direction of the cutting edge are forbidden.

U.S. 234 (addition).—The tip or button shall be forged with the blade in one piece; it must be covered with adhesive tape or other soft material.

§ 3. The guard.

The guard shall be smooth, solid, and of one piece. It shall present a continuous convex surface without raised rims and without any holes sufficiently large to catch the opponent's point.

Its length in the direction of the cutting edge of the blade shall be not more than 150 mm. (5.905") and its width at right angles to the cutting edge of the blade shall not be more than 140 mm. (5.512"). In other words, the entire guard shall be able to pass through a rectangular gauge 150 mm. by 140 mm., the flat of the blade being parallel to the 150 mm. sides.

B. — EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

1. For sabre, the mask shall be well padded, have a strong wire mesh, and a bib sufficiently large and strong to prevent any accident.

2. Neither the wrist nor the cuff of the glove shall be made of hard or polished leather which might cause the opponent's blade to glance off.

3. The elbow guard may be made of hard leather.

4. When the jacket is cut horizontally at the waist, the lower edge must overlap the breeches by at least 10 cm. (4") when the fencer is in the "on guard" position.

CHAPTER IV — THE CONVENTIONS OF SABRE FENCING

A. — METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

The sabre is a thrusting, cutting, and countercutting weapon; consequently hits with the point or either edge are equally valid, whatever part of the target is reached.

(a) Hits scored with any part of the cutting edge are called cuts; those scored with the first third of the back edge are called countercuts. No hits scored with any other part of the weapon—except the point—shall be counted;

(b) Hits with the point which graze the target and slip along the opponent's body with the edge or back edge (hits which pass) shall not count even as cuts;

TITLE FOUR : SABRE

CHAPTER I — HISTORICAL NOTE

Art.
227

The F.I.E. Rules include the essential portions of the rules adopted at the Olympic Games in London in 1903 and in Stockholm in 1912. They also conform to the basic principles of the Ostend rules and of the Hungarian rules, and were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the F.I.E. Commission for Sabre, assembled in Paris under the chairmanship of Dr. Bela Nagy, President of the Hungarian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

The present rules merely complete and define those adopted in 1914.

CHAPTER II — GROUND RULES

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Sabre competitions shall be held indoors on linoleum or cork strips.

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The width of the field of play shall be between 1.80 m. (5' 11") and 2 m. (6' 7").

U.S. 229 (Modification).—For non-championship events in the United States, the minimum width of the field of play may be 3 feet.

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The length of the field of play shall be 24 m. (78' 9"), so that each contestant, after being placed at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line shall have at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 10 m. (32' 10") without crossing the rear limit with both feet.

U.S. 230 (Modification).—The length of the field of play shall be 20 m. (65' 8"), so that each contestant's total retreating distance shall be 8 m. 26' 3". (See diagram following U.S. 22-23(a) and U.S. 22-23(b), Title I above.)

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Five lines should be drawn on the field of play parallel to its width: the center line, the two "on guard" lines, each at 2 m. (6' 7") from the center line, and the warning lines at 2 m. (6' 7") from the rear limits of the field of play.

U.S. 231.—(a) When the official U.S. strip is used, with a full 40-foot field of play between the end zones of the strip, the contestant who retreats off the field of play *with both feet* for the first time will have retreated only 4 m. (half the permissible distance) from his starting position. He shall therefore be brought back to the "on guard" line without penalty. If he then retreats to the warning line, the bout shall be stopped and the "two-meter" warning shall be given. If after the warning, he again crosses the rear limit *with both feet*, he shall be considered touched. (See also Art. 75-76.)

(b) When the A.F.L.A. minimum-length strip is used, the field of play is only 32 feet long, and the effective retreating distance for each contestant is only 10 feet (3.05 m.). A contestant may therefore retreat *twice* off the field of play *with both feet* without penalty (total retreat of 20 feet), and will at that point be entitled to retreat an additional distance of 6' 3". He shall accordingly be given a "two-yard" warning and shall be placed back on guard with his rear foot approximately 6 feet in front of the rear limit. If he then again retreats off the rear limit *with both feet*, he shall be considered touched. (See also Art. 75-76.)

Art.
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Art. 244 (c) Hits "through the blade," that is, those which touch the target and the opponent's sabre at the same time, are valid whenever the cutting edge lands cleanly on the target.

B. — TARGET

§ 1. Limitation of the target.

245 The target comprises every part of the body above a horizontal line passing through the highest points of the folds formed by the thighs and the trunk of the fencer when in the "on guard" position. (See silhouette, Art. 439.)

§ 2. Extension of the target.

246 **U.S. 246** (note).—The F.I.E. Congress of 1956 repealed Article 246 which for sabre corresponded to Article 126 in foil (covering the target, displacing the target), effective January 1, 1957.

247 The displacements of the Italian method of fencing, "passata sotto," "in quartata," etc., are formally authorized, and in such actions, the unarmed hand of the fencer may come in contact with the ground.

248 **U.S. 248** (note).—The F.I.E. Congress of 1956 repealed Article 248 which for sabre corresponded to Article 127 in foil, effective January 1, 1957.

§ 3. Consequences.

249 Any hit made directly by one of the contestants on a part of the body other than the target shall stop the sequence of play and shall annul all hits which arrive thereafter.

250 **U.S. 250** (clarification).—The F.I.E. Congress of 1956 repealed Article 250 which provided that hits arriving on an invalid surface as a result of the parry do not stop the phrase or annul anything thereafter. The consequence of this amendment is that hits clearly arriving on an invalid surface *after* a parry shall have the same effect as remises which arrive outside the target. On the other hand, hits clearly arriving at the same time or together with the parry (faulty or insufficient parry) are considered to have arrived directly.

C. — CLINCHES AND RUNNING ATTACKS

251 In sabre, when a fencer systematically causes the clinch (*corps a corps*)—even without violence or unnecessary roughness—he shall be penalized one touch after a single warning during the bout. This rule shall be equally applicable to any running attacks (*fleches*) which systematically end in a clinch.

U.S. 251 (clarifications).—(a) In the United States a fencer is deemed to cause the clinch "systematically" when the clinch is an intentional consequence of his method or system of play. Accordingly a warning should normally be given on the first offense. Only a clinch that results from a fall or other accident, or one caused by the forward movement of both fencers, is excluded from this rule.

(b) In the United States, the one-touch penalty against the offending fencer shall be applicable, after a warning, to each repetition of the clinch during the same bout.

D. — REVERSAL OF POSITIONS

252 Fencers are allowed to displace the target, side-step, turn, or half-turn, but the reversal of positions is forbidden; that is, if the original positions are actually reversed, the contestants shall be put back in the positions they occupied at the moment the reversing movement was begun.

E. — NUMBER OF TOUCHES AND TIME LIMITS

In sabre, bouts shall be usually fought for five touches with a time limit of 10 minutes per bout; while in direct-elimination events, victory in two bouts, each of 5 touches and with the same time limits, shall usually be required.

If, at the end of the time limit, one of the fencers has received more touches than the other, there shall be added to his score the number needed to reach the maximum, and the same number of touches shall be added to his opponent's score.

If, at the end of the time limit, both contestants have received the same number of touches, they shall both be considered to have received the maximum number of touches *minus one*, and they shall fence for the last touch without limit of time.

F. — OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT OF WAY

(a) Every correctly executed attack must be parried or completely evaded, and the orderly sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) must be followed. The fencer who departs from this rule does so at his own risk.

In order to judge the correctness of an attack, the following points must be considered:

1. If the attack starts while the opponent is "in line" (i.e., "with the arm extended and the point threatening the target"), the attacker must first deflect his opponent's weapon;¹

U.S. 257 (1) (Clarification).—This rule applies even if the attacker is also "in line" at the start of the attack.

2. If, upon attempting to find the opponent's blade to deflect it, the attacker fails to find the blade (*derobement* or *trompement*), the right of way passes to the opponent;

3. If the attack starts when the opponent is not "in line," the attack may proceed by a direct action, by disengage, or cut-over (*coupe*); or it may be preceded by one or more efficient feints which impel the opponent to attempt to parry.

(b) The parry gives a fencer the right to riposte; the simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but to annul any subsequent action by the attacker it must be executed immediately, without indecision or delay.

(c) If a composite attack is made, and the opponent finds the blade during one of the feints, he acquires the right to riposte.

(d) Against composite attacks, the opponent has the right to stop-hit; but to be valid the stop-hit must precede the conclusion of the attack by a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*); that is, the stop-hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

G. — JUDGING OF TOUCHES

§ 1. Preliminary note.

In explaining and applying the conventions, it is desirable to make clear the following: When, during a sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*), both fencers are hit simultaneously, there is either a simultaneous action (*temps commune*) or a double hit (*coup double, in contro*).

The first, which is due to simultaneous conception and execution of the attack by both fencers, may fairly be regarded as involving no fault on either side; in this case, the hits exchanged are annulled even if one of them has landed off the target. The double hit (*coup double*), on the other hand, is the result of a distinctly faulty

¹ Presidents must watch carefully, so that a mere grazing of the blades shall not be construed as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.

action on the part of one of the fencers; consequently the fencer who is in the wrong cannot derive any advantage therefrom.

Art. 263 Accordingly, when a double hit occurs, and there is not a fencing tempo (temps d'escrime) between the two hits:

§ 2. The defender alone is counted as touched—

- 264** (a) If he makes a stop-hit against a simple attack;
(b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts to evade the hit (*passata sotto*, in *quartata*, etc.) and does not succeed in so doing;
(c) If, after a successful parry, he makes a momentary pause which gives his opponent the right to retake the attack (redoublement, remise, or reprise of attack);
(d) If, during a composite attack he makes a stop-hit without having the advantage of a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*);
(e) If, having been "in line" (arm extended and point threatening the target) and having been subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (*prise de fer*) which deflects his weapon, he thrusts [or cuts] or replaces his blade in line instead of parrying a direct action made by his opponent.

§ 3. The attacker alone is counted as touched—

- 265** (a) If he attacks while his opponent is "in line" (arm extended and point threatening the target) without deflecting the opponent's blade;¹
(b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed because the opponent has escaped or deceived), and he continues the attack;
(c) If, during a composite attack, his opponent finds the blade, and he continues the attack while the opponent ripostes immediately;
(d) If, during a composite attack, he makes a momentary pause, during which time his opponent makes a stop-hit, and he continues the attack;
(e) If, during a composite attack, he receives a stop-hit that arrives a fencing tempo (*temps d'escrime*) before the conclusion of the attack;
(f) If he makes a hit by remise, redoublement, or reprise of attack after his opponent's parry that has been followed by an immediate, simple riposte, executed in a single fencing tempo and without withdrawal of the arm.

§ 4. The fencers are replaced on guard [without a score]—

266 Whenever the President, in case of a double hit (*coup double*), is unable to determine clearly which fencer is at fault, he shall annul the hits and replace the contestants on guard.

(One of the most difficult cases to judge arises when there is a stop-hit which has a doubtful time advantage against the final movement of a composite attack. In general, in such a case, the double hit results from the simultaneous fault of both fencers, which justifies the replacement on guard. The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution, or the making of feints which are not sufficiently effective, while the fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop-hit.)

¹ Presidents shall watch carefully, so that a mere grazing of the blades shall not be construed as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.

TITLE FIVE : ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

CHAPTER I* — MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

§ 1. The Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee is the group of persons responsible for organizing a competition. **Art. 267**

§ 2. Central Office of the F.I.E.

The Central Office of the F.I.E. controls the activities of the Bout Committee at the World Championships and the Olympic Games as described in Art. 384. **268**

§ 3. Bout Committee.

The technical organization of competitions is compulsorily entrusted to a Bout Committee (*Directoire Technique*) which for the Olympic Games shall consist of seven members and for the World Championships of five members. The Bout Committee must include two members from the organizing country, and the other members must belong to as many different countries. **269**

For other contests held under the sponsorship of the F.I.E., a Bout Committee of three members, each representing a different country, including one from the country where the events are held, may be sufficient. **270**

For the Olympic Games the members of the Bout Committee are appointed by the Congress of the F.I.E.; for the World Championships and other official events, by the Central Office of the F.I.E. in consultation with the Federation that organizes the event. **271**

No member of the Bout Committee may exercise any other functions at the tournament, such as member of the Jury of Appeal, team captain, official delegate of his country, competitor, etc. In special instances, members may act as presidents or judges in an event. Their powers include the strict but complete organization of the various events, and they are under a duty to see that the rules are observed; they should not be called upon to interpret the rules; they may not authorize, even in advance or even with the agreement of the interested parties, any departure from the rules. **272**

§ 4. Jury of Appeal.

(a) *International Jury of Appeal*: An international Jury of Appeal shall be constituted at the Olympic Games and the World Championships. At other competitions, the Jury of Appeal shall not be compulsory; if the rules for the event do not provide for it, its functions will be assumed by the Bout Committee. **273**

(b) *Designation*: The members of the Jury of Appeal shall be designated in writing by their Federation not later than the eve of the tournament; they may not act if they are involved either personally or by reason of their position. They may not be replaced by a substitute if unable to attend; and no member of the Jury of Appeal may receive a proxy to vote in the name of an absent colleague. **274**

(c) *President*: The Jury of Appeal is under the presidency ex-officio of the dele- **275**

* This chapter is not applicable to A.F.L.A. competitions, except by analogy in unusual cases.

gate of the Central Office of the F.I.E., who has a vote only when necessary to resolve a tie. In the absence of a delegate from the Central Office, the Jury of Appeal shall appoint its own president. In this case he always has a vote, and if there is equality of votes, his vote is decisive.

Art. 276 (d) *Jurisdiction*: The Jury of Appeal may not, for any reason, decide to depart from the rules of the F.I.E., even with the consent of the interested parties; its jurisdiction is clearly defined; furthermore, it may consider only the protests and demands on the questions submitted to it by the authorities specified in the rules. If it is impossible to apply the rules, for reasons beyond control, the Jury of Appeal may, exceptionally, make an emergency decision.

277 (e) *Meetings*: Before the beginning of the events, and according to the requirements of the daily time-table, the Bout Committee shall fix *three times* every day at which the members of the Jury of Appeal shall be expected to appear in order to ascertain whether any question has been submitted for their consideration; outside these times, and in case of urgency, the delegate of the Central Office of the F.I.E. may convene a special meeting of the Jury of Appeal (Congress of 1939).

278 (f) *At the Olympic Games*: At the Olympic Games,¹ the Jury of Appeal shall reach its decisions after inquiry; and its decisions shall be final *except* in cases of disqualification of a team or individual contestant for violation of the rules
—Of amateurism, in which case the appeals are decided by the F.I.E.;
—Of Olympic qualification, in which case the appeals are decided by the Court of Honor of the International Olympic Committee.

§ 5. Field Jury (called simply "jury" in the rules).

279 In principle, juries in international events shall be composed of judges of different nationalities and shall be as neutral as possible (See Art. 89). To this end, the Bout Committee may modify, for a fence-off, the composition of the jury which acted in the original pool. (See Art. 333.)

280 In the major international competitions, i.e. (1) the World Championships and Olympic Games, (2) matches between countries, (3) competitions held under F.I.E. sponsorship, the presidents of juries and the judges shall be amateurs and holders of current licenses.

281 In emergencies, the Central Office of the F.I.E. may appoint judges for specific events, even during the course of a contest.

282 For the major competitions (see above, Art. 280), the Organizing Committees must select their presidents from among the persons whose names appear on the official list (See F.I.E. Statutes, Art. 63).

§ 6. Auxiliary Personnel.

283 Auxiliary personnel necessary for the proper conduct of competitions include:

(a) *Scorers* (who keep the pool sheets on which the result of each bout is entered touch by touch and who make the corresponding entries on the scoreboard);

(b) *The Timekeeper* (who clocks the duration of each bout with a stopwatch and warns the president of the jury as to the expiration of the time limit according to the rules);

(c) *The Apparatus Manager* (whose only duty is to reset the electrical apparatus after the President has awarded a touch);

(d) *The Experts* (who may be consulted by the President of the Jury on all matters relating to the electrical registration apparatus);

(e) *The Repairmen* (who are present to remedy any faults that may occur in the electrical equipment).

¹ International Olympic Committee, session 45, March 1938.

CHAPTER II — ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

Entries for international competitions must be transmitted to the organizers by the secretary of the competitor's national federation (or of the national federation which has issued the competitor his international license, if the fencer in question is not a resident of his native country).

Art. 284

Members of federations affiliated to the F.I.E. are barred from participating in contests organized by a club or persons not affiliated to the official fencing organization in their country, unless such contests are especially authorized by the national federation.

285

CHAPTER III — CONTROL TO BE EFFECTED BEFORE COMPETITIONS

(See Articles 44, 177-180)

CHAPTER IV — SEQUENCE OF COMPETITIONS

In any single weapon, team competitions shall be held before the individual events. The organizers shall plan the program so as to avoid undue fatigue for team fencers, and to complete one type of competition before starting another.

286

The rules encompass

- (a) Team competitions,
- (b) Individual competitions;

287

for women and for men.

In international tournaments, the competitions will be held in the following order: foil, epee, and sabre.

288

In each weapon, the team competition shall take place before the individual event in the same weapon.

289

The schedule shall be arranged in such a manner that no fencer is obliged to be in actual competition for more than twelve hours in a twenty-four hour period. Under no circumstances shall a pool begin after midnight, or at any time when it can be foreseen with certainty that the pool will be completed long after midnight.*

290

(a) When a tournament comprises several individual events following each other immediately, those fencers who have competed in the final of one event shall, if they have not had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from competition in the first elimination round of the succeeding event.

291

(b) At the Olympic Games and the World Championships, those fencers who have actually competed on a team in the final of a team competition in one weapon shall, if they have not had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from competition in the first elimination round of the individual event in the same weapon.

292

(c) At the Olympic Games and the World Championships, those fencers who have actually competed on teams in the semi-finals of team competitions with two different weapons, and who in addition have fenced in the final of an individual event with one of these weapons, shall, if they have not had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from competing in the first elimination round of the individual competitions which follow.

293

* This rule and the next two should be followed as far as possible in A.F.L.A. competitions.

CHAPTER V* — TEAM COMPETITIONS

Art. § 1. Organization of Events.

294 International team competitions are permitted in the three weapons, foil, epee and sabre for men, as well as in foil for women.

295 Competitions shall be organized so that each fencer on one team shall meet all the fencers on the opposing team in a prearranged order.

296 Competitions shall always be held so that complete teams fence against complete teams, and not on the basis of pools of individual fencers, regardless of the number of teams entered. Each team shall successively meet all the other teams; except that when the number of teams is six or more, it is permissible to divide the teams into two or more groups and to apply all the rules governing the system of individual pools (elimination rounds, finals, etc.), each team being considered as an indivisible entity, and it being understood that matches are always between teams as units and not on the basis of pools of individuals.

297 In setting up the pools for team events, the Bout Committee is not required to observe the rule prescribed for individual events concerning the seeding of contestants on the basis of the results of the first and subsequent rounds.

§ 2. Composition of teams.

298 In foil, in sabre, and in epee for several touches, teams shall consist of four fencers—without counting reserves.

299 For team competitions in one-touch epee, teams shall consist of five or more fencers, without counting reserves.

300 The captain of each team may for each match modify (1) The composition of his team from among the fencers who have been properly entered as team members or reserves; (2) The order in which the team members are entered for each match.

§ 3. Order of bouts.

301 The official order of bouts is as follows:

1-5	1-6	7-1	8-1
6-2	7-2	2-8	2-5
3-7	3-8	5-3	6-3
8-4	5-4	4-6	4-7

The fencer who is called first shall place himself at the right of the President, except in the case of a bout between a right-handed and left-handed fencer in foil, sabre, or epee without the electrical apparatus (see Article 55).

302 The foregoing rule is obligatory for all weapons, not only to equalize any possible differences in the functioning of the electrical apparatus on one side or the other, but also to compensate any advantages in the field of play or the light.

303 In a bout between a right-handed and a left-handed fencer, the President shall locate the competitors so that he can see their "Quarte" lines; when the half-way mark in the bout is reached (or after each bout of an individual match in direct elimination), if the President cannot change sides, the fencers shall remain in place and the judges will shift from left to right and vice-versa. (This rule is not applicable to epee bouts fenced with the electrical apparatus).

§ 4. Standing of teams.

304 The results of team events are determined in the following manner:

305 (a) *Match between two teams:* The score of each team shall be the total number

* The provisions of this chapter are applicable in most respects to A.F.L.A. competitions. See Title VII, Chapters III, IV, and V.

of individual victories obtained by all the fencers of that team over all the fencers of the opposing team. The winning team shall be the one which obtains the highest number of individual victories.

When both teams have the same number of individual victories, the match is drawn; except that, in competitions where each bout is fenced for several touches, in case both teams have scored the same number of individual victories, then the total number of touches received by all the members of each team shall be determined, and the winning team shall be the one which has received the lowest number of touches. The match is not drawn unless there is an equality of individual victories and touches received.

Each victory by one team over another shall count two match points; each drawn match shall count one match point for each of the two teams; each defeat shall count zero.

(b) *Standing of several teams in the same pool.* The general standing is ascertained by the total match points: the winning team being the one which has obtained the largest number of match points, and so on.

In case of a tie in match points between two or more teams in the same pool, the relative standing is determined among them by the number of individual victories scored by the members of each team in the entire pool.

If two or more teams are tied in match points and individual victories:

1. In one-touch events, these teams have equal standing.

2. On the other hand, if bouts have been fenced for several touches, and there is a tie among several teams in match points and individual victories, the number of touches received by each fencer on each team in the entire pool shall be ascertained, and the winning team shall be the one whose fencers have received the least number of touches. Lastly, if there should be a tie in touches received, the number of touches scored by each member of the teams in the entire pool shall be ascertained, and the winning team shall be the one whose fencers have scored the largest number of touches. If there is a tie between two or more teams in match points, individual victories, touches received, and touches scored, such teams are given equal standing. If there are "obligatory and exceptional" reasons to differentiate between the teams thus given equal standing, the Bout Committee may proceed to hold a fence-off. In principle, the tie should be fenced-off immediately after the original event and on the same day; but in extraordinary cases, because of the length of the competition, the fence-off may be adjourned to another time.

It is therefore apparent that, even when one team has achieved victory over the other team before all of its fencers have met all of the members of the opposing team, it is essential that all remaining bouts be fenced with the same attention and concentration, since the result of a single touch in the later bouts may lead to a difference in the general standing of the teams concerned.¹

(c) *Withdrawal during a match:* When a team member withdraws during the progress of a match—without prejudice to disciplinary penalties which may be imposed subsequently—the results obtained by him up to the time of the withdrawal are allowed to stand; and for all subsequent bouts which he was scheduled to fence a defeat shall be counted against him; that is to say, each of his subsequent oppo-

¹ In order to save time it is becoming increasingly common, when the general standing of the teams in an elimination round has been definitely ascertained before all the bouts between the competing teams have been fenced, to omit the bouts which cannot affect the standing of the teams in any way. This practice is not contrary to the rules, but should not be insisted upon by the Bout Committee except when absolutely necessary in order to conform to the exigencies of the time schedule.

Art. 313 nents shall be considered to have beaten him without having received a single touch from him.

However, if a member of a team is "obliged" to retire during a match, either as a result of an accident, or for a reason beyond his control, duly verified by the President of the Jury, the captain of the team concerned may ask the Bout Committee, or failing it, the Organizing Committee, for permission to use a substitute to continue the competition at the point where it was at the time of the withdrawal, even during a bout already started.

314 (d) *Withdrawal of a team:* I. When, for any reason whatever, a team does not complete an event already started, the Bout Committee shall follow the rules governing the withdrawal of a competitor during the progress of an individual event, each team being considered as an entity. (See Article 336 ff.)

II. When a team forfeits in favor of another team, it shall be considered:

315 (a) as not having completed an event already started, if it has already fenced against another team in the pool (see I above);

(b) as not having appeared at all in the event, if the forfeit is for the first match in the pool.

CHAPTER VI* — INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

A. — BY POOLS

§ 1. Official Competitions.

316 The individual events of the Olympic Games and the World Championships must be fenced according to the system of elimination pools followed by a final pool. They may be fenced according to the system of direct elimination only as an exception and by amendment approved by a vote of the F.I.E. Congress (See Art. 353 ff.)

§ 2. Number of fencers in a pool.

317 (a) For one touch (epee), pools shall in principle consist of a minimum of ten fencers.

(b) For several touches, pools may consist of a lesser number, with a minimum of six fencers.

318 (c) The finals of official F.I.E. competitions shall consist of a minimum of eight fencers in all weapons.

§ 3. Composition of pools.

319 For the first round, the principle of "seeding" must be observed. The Bout Committee in its absolute discretion shall decide which fencers are to be seeded.

Note 1: The principle of "seeding" is not limited to one fencer per pool; there may be two or more seeded fencers in a pool.

Note 2: To assist the Bout Committee, the captains of teams have the right to submit a list of their nationals taking part in the individual events, classified in order of merit, so that this classification can be taken into account when making up pools, as a supplement to the seeding process.

320 For subsequent rounds, each pool shall contain, as far as possible, the same number of fencers who have placed first, second, third, etc., in the preceding round, avoiding as far as possible that fencers who were in the same pool in the preceding round meet again in the same pool in the next round.

321 During all elimination rounds, competitors of the same nationality shall be distrib-

* The provisions of this chapter are applicable in most respects to A.F.L.A. competitions. See title VII, chapters III, IV, and V.

uted as widely as possible among all the pools of each round. When there are several possible ways of accomplishing this result, the drawing of lots is obligatory.

The principle of distributing competitors of the same nationality shall take precedence over the principle of seeding.

For each pool, the order numbers for competitors shall be determined by drawing lots. (See however, Art. 325 and 326.)

§ 4. Order of bouts.

The order of bouts is governed by a fixed schedule, prepared in advance (see Art. 327). The fencer called first shall place himself on the right of the President, except in case the first-called fencer is left-handed and is meeting a right-handed fencer in foil or sabre. [See also Art. 302-303.]

When there are several fencers of the same nationality in a pool, these fencers must fence one another first, before meeting fencers of another nationality. But when it happens (for example in a final) that the fencers of one nationality are in the majority, the Bout Committee shall prepare a different schedule in order to avoid excessive strain upon the competitors or excessive delays.

When "stateless" fencers are included in a pool, they shall first meet the fencers of the nation to which they originally belonged, and next the fencers of the country which has issued to them the international license.

ORDER OF BOUTS

5 fencers (10 bouts)	6 fencers (15 bouts)	7 fencers (21 bouts)	8 fencers (28 bouts)	9 fencers (36 bouts)	10 fencers (45 bouts)					
1-2	1-4	1-4	3-1	1-5	6-3	1-9	3-1	1-6	9-1	2-3
3-4	2-5	2-5	4-6	2-6	7-4	2-8	2-4	2-7	10-2	6-10
5-1	3-6	3-6	7-2	3-7	1-2	3-7	5-9	3-8	6-3	7-8
2-3	5-1	7-1	3-5	4-8	3-4	4-6	8-6	4-9	7-4	4-5
5-4	6-2	5-4	1-6	6-1	5-6	1-5	7-1	5-10	8-5	10-9
1-3	4-3	2-3	2-4	7-2	7-8	2-9	4-3	7-1	10-1	3-1
2-5	1-6	6-7	7-3	8-3	3-1	8-3	5-2	8-2	2-6	2-4
4-1	2-4	5-1	6-5	5-4	4-2	7-4	6-9	9-3	3-7	6-8
3-5	3-5	4-3	1-2	1-7	7-5	6-5	8-7	10-4	4-8	7-9
4-2	2-1	6-2	4-7	2-8	6-8	1-2	4-1	6-5	9-5	5-2
	4-5	5-7		3-5	1-4	9-3	5-3	1-8	1-2	8-10
	3-2			4-6	2-3	8-4	6-2	2-9	3-4	1-4
	6-4			8-1	8-5	7-5	9-7	3-10	6-7	5-3
	1-3			5-2	6-7	6-1	1-8	4-6	8-9	9-6
	5-6					3-2	4-5	5-7	5-1	7-10
						9-4	3-6			
						5-8	2-7			
						7-6	9-8			

§ 5. Promotion to the next round.

In one-touch epee, at least 50%. When in one-touch epee it is not possible to make up pools of at least ten fencers, more than 50% shall be promoted, and at least three in any event.

In bouts for several touches, in all weapons, at least 33% and not less than three fencers.

A fencer shall be entitled to promotion into the next round when there is a difference in the number of victories between him and the fencers who are eliminated.

U.S. (See Art. 654-657.)

Art. 322

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Art.
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§ 6. Standing of fencers.

The standing of fencers in each pool is determined by the number of victories. In the event of competitions for several touches, if there is a tie in the number of victories between two or more contestants, their standing shall be determined as follows:

(a) *In elimination pools:* By a fence-off (barrage) between the fencers having an equal number of victories who might qualify for promotion to the next round. In the event of a tie in bout victories after one fence-off round, by the least number of touches received (and if necessary by the greatest number of touches scored) during the original pool added to the number of touches received, and if necessary the touches scored, during the fence-off.

(b) *In the final pool:* Solely for the first place (or for the first three places in the Olympic Games), by fence-off according to the regulations that have prevailed in the original pool. This fence-off round shall also determine the final standing of all the fencers who participate in it. When, after the fence-off, two or more fencers have the same number of victories, there are two different situations to be resolved: Solely for first place, the fence-off shall be repeated until one of the fencers shall have a larger number of victories than the others; on the other hand, for the remaining places (including 2d and 3d places at the Olympic Games), the standing shall be determined by the count of touches in the original pool added to the touches in one or more fence-offs.

332

Similarly, between fencers who are not in the fence-off for first place (or for the first three places in the Olympic Games), their standing is determined by the count of touches; if there is a tie in victories and in touches received, by the number of touches scored; if there is a tie in victories, in touches received, and in touches scored, the fencers shall receive equal standing, or shall fence-off if there is need to determine their separate places.

§ 7. Fence-offs.

333

The standing of fencers in a fence-off is determined on the basis of further bouts under the regulations governing the original pool among fencers who have attained equal results.

In individual competitions, fence-offs must be held immediately after the original pool, and without the fencers leaving the place of competition, but the Bout Committee may alter the composition of the jury for the fence-off. (See Art. 279.)

334

When *three* contestants are in a fence-off, the order of bouts will be as follows: For the first bout, there shall be a drawing of lots unless there are two competitors of the same nationality, etc. (as provided in the rules). Thereafter, the procedure is as follows:

I. If the fence-off is for first place in the final, the order shall be:

- (1) A first bout between A and B; A wins.
- (2) Then, the contestant who has not fenced shall meet the winner, that is, C against A.
- (3) Finally, a third bout between C and the loser of the first bout, that is, C against A.

U.S. (See Art 659.)

II. If the fence-off is during an elimination round, and only one of the three competitors in the fence-off can qualify for the next round, the order is the same as under (I) above, with a note that the third bout may be unnecessary.

III. If the fence-off is during an elimination pool, and two of the three contestants may qualify for the next round, the order shall be:

- (1) A against B; A wins.

- (2) C against the loser B.
- (3) A against C (which may be unnecessary).

Art.
335

The Bout Committee shall arrange the schedule of events so that, even allowing the time necessary for fence-offs, the maximum period of twelve hours of actual competition prescribed by Article 290 will not be exceeded.

§ 8. Withdrawal of a contestant.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

1. No one shall be placed at a disadvantage because he has been unable to fence one or more of his scheduled bouts.

336

2. No one shall gain an advantage from not having met all the opponents against whom he would normally have fenced.

337

(a) When for any reason whatsoever a contestant (individual or team) withdraws from an event which has already started, the Bout Committee shall apply the following rules, without prejudice to any disciplinary action which may be appropriate:

338

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. When a contestant (individual or team) during a competition (or pool) fails to complete a scheduled bout or match that has already been started in the pool, and at the time of the withdrawal his or its opponent is leading, such bout or match, but only that bout or match, shall be deemed to have been completed as if all the remaining touches had been scored by the opponent who does not withdraw. In every other case, such bout or match shall be considered as if it had never been fenced.¹

339

Examples:

I. Pool of teams; match between Team X and Team Z, for a total of 16 bouts. If the score is: X, 9 victories (or even if only 6), and Z, 2 victories, when Team Z withdraws, the official score of the match will be X, 14 victories, and Z, 2 victories. But if the score was 5-5 or 3-6 in favor of Z, the retiring team, the whole match is cancelled.

II. Individual pool; 5-touch bouts: The bout between A and B has begun; when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, A is obliged to withdraw; for this bout B is the winner with the official score of 5-2. But if the score was 3-3 or 3-2 in favor of A, who withdraws, the whole bout is cancelled.

2. When the withdrawing contestant has obtained no victories before the withdrawal, he or it will be considered as not having fenced at all.

340

341

RULE ONE

When the competition (or pool) is finished, except for the bouts of the withdrawing contestant, the Bout Committee shall prepare *two score sheets*, each showing the exact standing of the competitors according to victories and places, following the usual rules (fence-off for first place in the finals or for the fencers who may be eliminated; total of touches received and scored for other places, etc.).

First score sheet (Table A): Standing of only those fencers who have fenced all the bouts scheduled in the pool.

Second score sheet (Table B): Standing of only those fencers who have not met the contestant who has withdrawn from the event.

342

RULE TWO

The relative standing between contestants listed on the same score sheet is final.

For the reasons for this provision, see minutes of the F.I.E. Congress of 1938, p. 24.

1. For the final.

For first place, a fence-off shall be held between the highest ranking competitor on Table B and the highest ranking competitor on Table A, provided that the latter's total of victories is equal to, or not more than one higher than, the total of victories scored by the contestant on Table B.

Thereafter, subject to the proviso that the relative standing of fencers on the same score sheet is final among them, each succeeding place is determined by a fence-off between the next highest ranking competitor on Table B and the next highest ranking competitor on Table A, provided that the latter's record of victories is equal to, or not more than one higher than, the record of the competitor on Table B. However, a fence-off shall not be held if the number of touches received and scored is such that the fencer on Table B could not have finished higher than the fencer on Table A, even if he had won his bout against the withdrawing contestant without receiving a single touch; or if the fencer on Table A could not have finished higher than the fencer on Table B even if the latter had lost his bout against the withdrawing contestant without scoring a single touch.

EXAMPLE

Epee pool, 3-touch bouts, 10 fencers.

TABLE A			TABLE B		
1st.	G	7 v. 14 t.r.	1st.	V	6 v. 10 t.r.
2d.	H	5 v. 18 t.r.	2d.	X	6 v. 10 t.r.
3d.	K	3 v. 22 t.r., 14 t.s.	3d.	Y	4 v. 19 t.r.
4th.	L	1 v.	4th.	Z	3 v. 19 t.r., 15 t.s.
			5th.	R	3 v. 21 t.r.

On Table B, V is ranked first because, in accordance with Rule One, a preliminary fence-off has been held between V and X, who were tied for first place on this table with the same number of bout victories.

Next, V fences-off with G, who ranks at the top of Table A. If G wins, G is first, V is second, and X is third.

If V wins, V is first. However, X, who now becomes the top ranking contestant on Table B, who could have tied G in total victories if he had had the opportunity to fence his remaining bout, and who could have finished ahead of G on touches, is entitled to fence-off with G for second and third places.

There is no need for a fence-off between H and Y, because Y has already received more touches than H, so that Y could not have placed higher than H even if he had won the remaining bout. Thus, H is fourth and Y is fifth.

Similarly, there is no need for a fence-off between K and Z, because K's touch score makes it impossible for him to place ahead of Z even if Z had lost his remaining bout without making a single touch. Both K and Z would in that case have received the same number of touches (22), but Z would have finished ahead of K by having scored one more touch. Therefore Z is sixth.

However, for seventh place, it is necessary to hold a fence-off between K and R, because their respective touch scores are such that R's unfenced bout might have affected their relative standing. There is no doubt that L is ninth.

2. For elimination rounds.

Subject to the proviso that the relative standing of fencers on the same score sheet is final, the procedure shall be the same as for the final, except that it is unnecessary to hold a fence-off between two contestants on different tables if they have a sufficient number of victories to insure their qualification for the next round.

EXAMPLE
Pool of 12 fencers, with 6 qualifiers.

TABLE A			TABLE B		
1st.	A	9 v.	1st.	G	8 v.
2d.	B	7 v.	2d.	H	8 v.
3d.	C	6 v.	3d.	I	6 v.
4th.	D	6 v.	4th.	K	6 v.
5th.	E	2 v.	5th.	L	1 v.
6th.	F	1 v.			

It is clear that E, L, and F are eliminated.

It is equally clear that A, G, H, and B qualify. However, B, despite the fact that he is sure to qualify, must fence-off with I (who had won a preliminary fence-off with K to determine his place on Table B), because I is entitled to improve his score against all possible opponents.

If I wins, K must in turn fence B; and if K also wins, the qualifiers shall be A, B, G, H, I, and K.

If, on the other hand, B beats I, then C (who had won a preliminary fence-off with D to determine his place on Table A) must fence-off with I, and the winner qualifies. The loser will then fence-off with either G or K (his counterpart on the opposite table) for the sixth qualifying place.

If I beats B, and B beats K, then K will fence-off with C for the sixth qualifying place.

RULE FOUR

A contestant (individual or team) who withdraws from a competition for reasons beyond his control, duly verified by the President, has the right to receive the final standing to which he is entitled by the number of actual victories; but if a fence-off with any other contestant is necessary, he shall be deemed to have lost the fence-off. In all other cases, without prejudice to possible disciplinary penalties, he shall forfeit the right to receive any final standing.

(b) When more than one contestant withdraws from a competition:

The guiding principles underlying the foregoing rules shall be followed, so that no one is placed at a disadvantage because he has been unable to fence one or more of his scheduled bouts, and that no one shall gain an advantage from not having met all the opponents against whom he would normally have fenced.

In order to apply these principles to the case of multiple withdrawals, the following corollaries to the foregoing rules are applicable:

1. When more than one contestant withdraws from an event, the Bout Committee shall, upon conclusion of the pool, prepare *three or more score sheets*, each being complete and final as to the relative standing of the contestants on each table:

Table A, including only those contestants who have fenced *all* the bouts scheduled in the pool;

Table B, including only the contestants who have fenced *all but one* of their scheduled bouts;

Table C, including only those contestants who have fenced *all but two* of their scheduled bouts; and so on.

2. Every contestant who has not fenced one or several bouts shall fence-off with the top-ranking competitor in each of the other tables whose total number of bout victories he might have equalled or surpassed, except in the cases covered by Rule Three above, where the number of touches received and scored would make the fence-off unnecessary.

3. For first place in the final, each table being conclusive as to the relative standing of the fencers listed therein, a determination will be made as to which fencer, ranked at the top of each table, has the largest number of actual victories.

If that fencer is on Table A, he must fence-off with the top-ranking fencer on Table B, provided that the latter has actually won the same number of bouts, or only one less bout; and he must also fence-off with the top-ranking fencer on Table C, provided that the latter has won the same number, one less, or two less bouts; and with the top-ranking fencer on Table D who has the same number, or one or two or three less victories; and so on.

If that fencer is on Table B, he must fence-off with the top-ranking fencer on Table C who has the same number or one less victory, and with the top-ranking fencer on Table D having the same number or one or two less victories; etc.

If that fencer is on Table C, he must fence-off with the fencer on Table D who has the same number or one less victory; and with the fencer on Table B whose number of victories is only one less than his.

And so on as required.

The fencer who wins the fence-off will be placed first in the final; the relative final standing of the other contestants in the fence-off, as between themselves, will be determined by the results of the fence-off, but other fencers may be entitled to higher places than the losers of the fence-off.

351 4. For the other places in the final, every contestant who has not fenced one or more bouts in the final shall fence off with the other fencers on the other tables

EXAMPLE I

Pool of 10 fencers, 5-touch bouts

											Tables			
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	A	B	C	
L	×	V.3	D	V.2	V.1	V.1	V.1	V.0	D	—			6V.8/3*	
M	D	×	V.3	V.1	V.1	V.0	V.1	—	D	—				5V.6/4
N	V.2	D	×	V.1	V.1	D	D	V.1	D	D		4V.5/8		
O	D	D	D	×	V.2	V.2	D	—	V.3	—				3V.7/6
P	D	D	D	D	×	V.3	V.3	—	V.2	—				3V.8/5
Q	D	D	V.1	D	D	×	V.2	—	D	D			2V.3/8	
R	D	D	V.3	V.2	D	D	×	D	D	D		2V.5/7		
S	D	—	D	—	—	—	V.0	×	D	V.3	with-draws			
T	V.1	V.1	V.1	D	D	V.2	V.0	V.1	×	—			6V.6/5	
U	—	—	V.0	—	—	V.0	V.0	D	—	×	with-draws			

* This means that Fencer L received 8 touches in his 6 victories and scored 3 touches in the bouts lost (Totals: 18 t.r., 33 t.s.).

For first place: A preliminary fence-off between L and T will determine who will fence-off with M for first place; according to the results of the fence-offs, these three fencers will place first, second, and third.

For fourth place: Fence-off between N and O (top-ranking fencer on Table C). If N wins, he places fourth, followed by O and P. If O wins, he places fourth, and N and P fence-off for fifth and sixth.

If U's three victories entitle him to a place (withdrawal because of injury, etc.), he shall be ranked immediately below P, since the latter, relative to U, who could not fence-off, is deemed to have for this reason one more victory than U.

whose total number of bout victories he might have equalled, except in the cases where the number of touches received and scored by such contestants would make the fence-off unnecessary.

5. In the elimination rounds, after ascertaining the fencers who are clearly entitled to qualify, and those who are certain to be eliminated, a fence-off shall be held among the remaining contestants who might, on the basis of actual or possible victories, be able to qualify for the next round.

EXAMPLE II

Pool of 9 fencers, 5-touch bouts

											Tables		
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	A	B	C	
L	×	—	—	—	V.2	D	—	—	V.2	with-draws			
M	—	×	V.3	V.0	—	V.3	D	V.1	D				4V.7/5
N	—	D	×	V.4	V.2	D	D	V.1	D		3V.7/13		
O	—	D	D	×	—	V.3	V.2	V.2	D				3V.7/4
P	D	—	D	—	×	V.4	D	—	—	with-draws			
Q	V.3	D	V.3	D	D	×	V.2	V.3	D		4V.11/12		
R	—	V.1	V.3	D	V.3	D	×	D	D			3V.7/10	
S	—	D	D	D	—	D	V.3	×	V.4				2V.7/7
T	D	V.4	V.4	V.0	—	V.2	V.3	D	×			5V.13/6	

For first place, a fence-off between T and M will determine first and second places, because if M loses he still has such a touch advantage over Q that he will be entitled to higher ranking without a fence-off.

For the next places: Fence-off between O, Q, and N (who ranks higher than R).

First possibility: The result of the fence-off is Q, N, O; then they place third, fourth, and fifth respectively. Then R and S fence-off for sixth and seventh places.

Second possibility: The result of the fence-off is N, Q, O; then N is third, and R will fence-off with Q for fourth and fifth places; O will be sixth and S seventh.

Third possibility: The result of the fence-off is O, Q, N; then O is third, and S will fence-off with Q for fourth and fifth places; N will be sixth and R seventh.

Fourth possibility: The result of the fence-off is O, N, Q; then O is third, and S will fence-off with N. If S wins, he is fourth, N fifth, and Q and R will fence-off for sixth and seventh. If N wins, he is fourth; Q and R will fence-off for fifth, and the loser will fence-off with S for sixth and seventh.

B. — BY DIRECT ELIMINATION

§ 1. Applicability of rules.

The general provisions of the rules are applicable without variation, except to the extent that they conflict with those specified in this section B, which is intended solely for individual competitions by direct elimination.

§ 2. Individual matches; number of touches.

In all three weapons, each individual match consists of two bouts for five effective touches each, with a third deciding bout if necessary. For women, each bout shall be for four effective touches, with a deciding bout if necessary.

Art. § 3. Duration of matches.

355 Ten minutes for each bout, including those in epee, for five touches. For women, eight minutes per bout.

356 There will be a compulsory period of rest, of two minutes duration, between bouts.

357 If at the end of regulation time the two fencers are tied in any of the three bouts, the bout will be continued without a time limit until a decision is reached.

358 Similarly, in epee, if the two fencers tie at 5-5 because of a double touch, one or more touches will be fenced for without time limit until a decision is reached.

§ 4. Organization of competitions.

(a) Direct Elimination Throughout.

359 The Bout Committee shall organize the first elimination round by granting as many byes as may be necessary to insure that the number of fencers remaining after the first round shall be a mathematical power of 2 (i.e., 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, etc.). Seeded fencers are entitled, in order of their rank, to byes in the first round, which is itself arranged with due allowance for the principles of seeding and of nationality.

The formula for determining the number of byes in the first round (E) is: $E = 2N - P$, with P the number of entries and N the number of fencers desired for the second round (4, 8, 16, 32, etc.).

The master plan for direct elimination is then set up, following the principle of seeding. The seeded fencers will be placed, in order of merit, in positions 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The master plans in Art. 365 are given as examples.

(b) Combined Round-Robin and Direct Elimination.

360 The Bout Committee shall organize one or more rounds of elimination pools, so as to arrive eventually at a point where there will be 2, 4, or 8 pools from which the four top fencers will go into a direct-elimination round of 8, 16, or 32 competitors.

In this case, those who place first in their pools shall be seeded, and shall be placed by lot in the top positions of the master plan (1-2, or 1-2-3-4, etc.). Those who finish second in their pools go into positions 3-4 or 5-6-7-8, etc. The same principle applies to those who finish third and fourth.

The standing of fencers in the elimination pools is determined first by counting the number of bout victories, and then by a count of touches received and touches scored. A fence-off is required in the case of a tie in victories, touches received and touches scored.

(c) Management.

361 Insofar as possible, the Bout Committee should avoid pairing of fencers of the same nationality in the first round, or even the second round.

362 In all cases, for each round of direct elimination, the matches will be called in the order of the master plan, starting at the top and finishing at the bottom.

363 In order to save time, the organizers may schedule several matches to be fenced on different strips, but the fencers shall always be called on the strip in the same order. A fencer shall always be allowed a rest period of a quarter of an hour between two consecutive matches.

§ 5. Final standing.

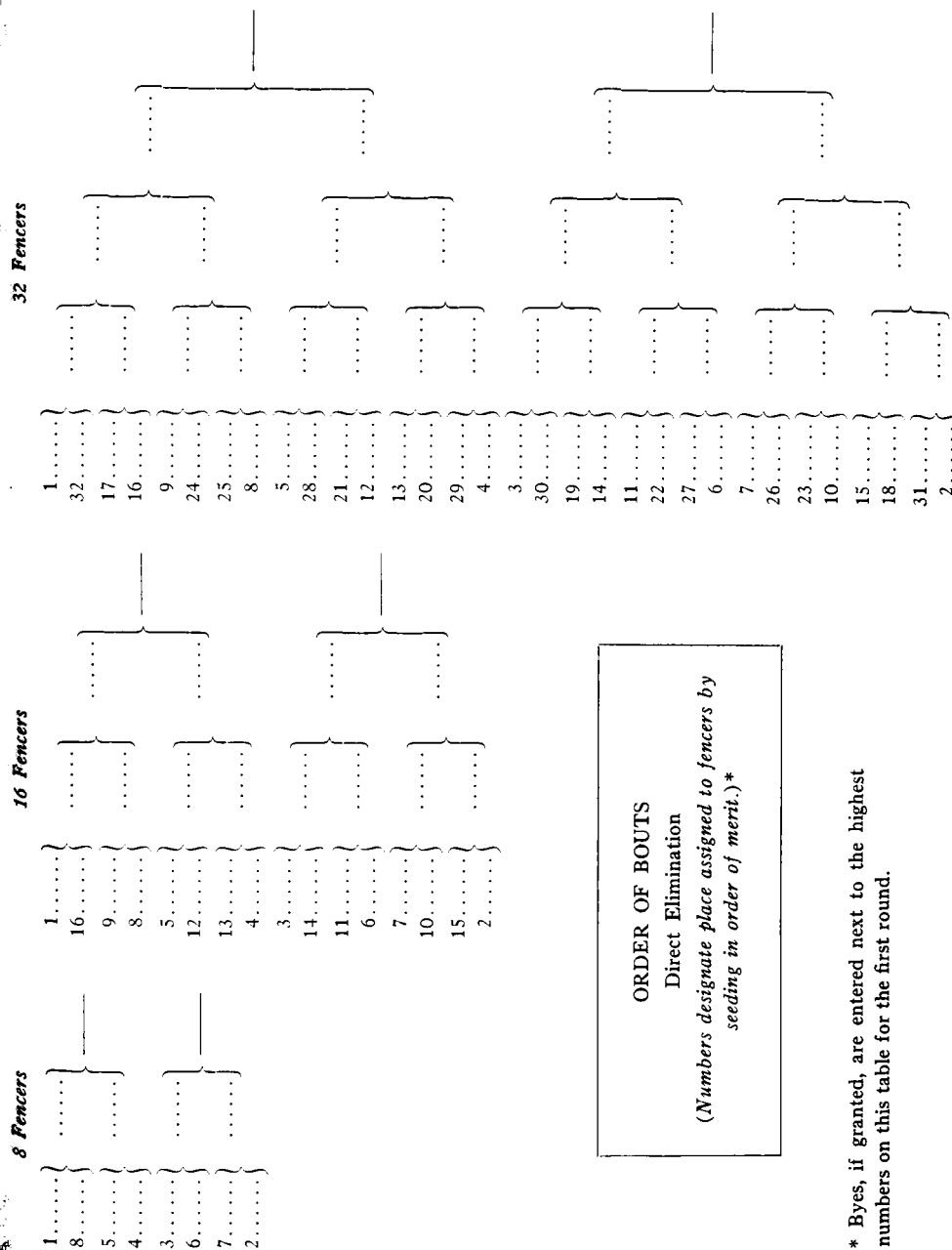
364 The final standing of contestants shall be determined as follows:

First, the winner of the final.

Second, the loser of the final.

Third and fourth, by fence-off between the two losers in the semi-finals.

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth, by a fence-off by direct elimination among the losers of the quarter-finals. The pairings are determined by reference to the standing



of the fencers in the elimination pools. The two highest-ranking fencers shall meet the two of lower rank.

The remaining fencers are given equal standing at ninth place.

Art.
365

§ 6. Master Plan for direct elimination. (See p. 61.)

CHAPTER VII — SPECIAL RULES FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. — INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Annual Championship.

366

In accordance with the decisions taken by the F.I.E. Congresses at Antwerp 1920, The Hague 1927, Amsterdam 1928, Brussels 1937, Antwerp 1939, and Brussels 1947, official championships in foil, epee and sabre for men, and in foil for women, and called *World Championships* (called European Championships until 1936), are held annually under the auspices of the F.I.E.

367

These competitions cannot be held during an Olympic Year because they would duplicate the Olympic World Championships.

§ 2. Military championship.

368

In addition, according to the decision taken at the Congress of 1922, Military World Championships in all three weapons, restricted to career officers in active service,¹ are in principle recognized.

369

Since these competitions are restricted exclusively to "amateurs," they are not open to officers who have been fencing masters, even if they no longer teach.

§ 3. Candidature.

370

Bids for the organization of the World Championships, civil and military, in any year must be submitted to the Central Office of the F.I.E. prior to the preceding December 31. The Congress will decide the federation or federations to whom the organization of the Championships shall be entrusted, as well as the date and place where they will be held.

§ 4. Entries.

371

Entries are limited to six fencers of any one nation for each event.

372

The nations who wish to send fencers to the World Championships must inform the federation in charge of the organization, at least a month and a half before the beginning of the competitions. Eight days before the starting date, the number and names of the participants from each country shall be communicated to the organizing country. Substitution of names, due to reasons beyond control, may be made only up to the eve of the competitions.

B. — TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Simultaneous events.

373

The country or countries who are entrusted with the organization of the civil of

¹ As an exception, in view of the militia character of the Swiss army, all officers who belong to the "Elite" may participate in these championships.

military individual championships, may, at the same time and place, schedule team championships in the three weapons for men, and in foil for women.¹

As soon as the country or countries concerned have been designated as organizers of the individual championships, they shall indicate whether they are prepared to organize one or more team championships.²

§ 2. Entries.

Entries are restricted to one team in each weapon for each country, each team to be composed of from four to six fencers of the same nationality from whom the team captain for each match shall select four.

The names of the six team members shall be announced the eve of the competitions and may not be thereafter modified.

Countries that wish to enter one or more teams in the World Championships must so inform the federation entrusted with the organization at least a month and a half before the beginning of the competitions. Eight days prior to the starting date, the number of teams which will actually participate shall be communicated to the organizing federation.

At least one month before the championships, the organizers shall advise the Central Office of the F.I.E. as to the team events that have been scheduled and as to the countries that have announced their intention to participate.

C. — PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO BOTH TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

§ 1. Nationality of competitors.

The World Championships (civil or military) are open to members of all national federations affiliated with the F.I.E.

Nevertheless, the Central Office of the F.I.E. may accept entries, for the individual events, from fencers who are juridically "stateless," provided such entries are transmitted by the federation of the country in which each of these fencers resides.

When stateless fencers are in the same pool with fencers from their country of origin, or with fencers from the country in which they reside, they must fence their bouts with these fencers before meeting the contestants of other nationalities (See Art. 325 and 326).

Stateless competitors must be expressly described as such in their official identity papers. (Congress of 1951.)

§ 2. F.I.E. rules.

The rules of the F.I.E. must be strictly observed in these events.

§ 3. Bout Committee (Directoire Technique).

The technical management of the championships is undertaken by a Bout Committee of five members of different nationalities, of whom two shall represent the organizing country.

¹ The title of "champion" cannot be awarded for team events unless at least five teams participate in the men's events and four teams in the women's event.

Since women's team events are not included in the Olympic program, a women's team championship may be scheduled in Olympic years. (Congress of 1932.) This event is endowed with a challenge cup donated by the Danish federation.

² A challenge cup was presented by Prince Rainier of Monaco in 1951 to be awarded to the team which achieves the greatest number of victories during the whole of the championships in one year.

Art.
374

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Art. 384 § 4. Supervision by the F.I.E.

In order to insure that the rules are observed, the President and one of the members of the Central Office of the F.I.E. have the right to attend all meetings of the Bout Committee, and the Bout Committee is required to give them appropriate notice of such meetings.

§ 5. Number of touches.

385 The number of touches in the three weapons at the Olympic Games and at the World Championships is as follows:

- Women* (foil only); 4 effective touches.
- Men* (three weapons); 5 effective touches.

§ 6. Control of weapons. (See Art. 44, 177, 178.)

**CHAPTER VIII — INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS
IN SEVERAL WEAPONS**

386 In a match between national teams in two different weapons, if each team has won one of the team events, neither country can be declared the winner of the match on the ground that its aggregate of individual victories in the two different weapons is larger than the aggregate of individual victories of the other country, *unless there has been an agreement to the contrary in advance.* (Congress of 1946.)

**TITLE SIX : INTERNATIONAL CODE OF
DISCIPLINE**

CHAPTER I* — ORDER AND DISCIPLINE

§ 1. Team Captain.

In all competitions between nations, the competitors of the same nationality shall be under the direction of a *team captain* (who may or may not fence), who shall be responsible to the organizing committee for the discipline, conduct, and sportsmanship of these fencers. His team members must give him absolute obedience, under pain of penalties to be imposed by their national federation.

Art. 387

The team captain alone has the right to approach the organizing committee, the juries, etc., in order to decide technical matters, register protests, or make observations. The team members who strictly carry out his instructions—insofar as they do not constitute a violation of the rules for competitions—cannot be held responsible for them before the appropriate authorities. However, they remain personally responsible for any acts committed by them apart from the intervention of their captain, and for all acts committed by them in violation of the provisions of these rules.

388

§ 2. Method of fencing.

The competitors shall obey scrupulously the orders given by the President pursuant to the rules contained in the chapter on "Combat," above, Art. 49 ff.

389

Every fencer is at liberty to acknowledge aloud a touch that he has received, at the moment that he receives it.¹ Fencers are absolutely forbidden to acknowledge a hit after the President of the jury has given his decision, or to make any gestures or communications (*except the acknowledgement of the touch as allowed*) which might influence the decisions of the jury.

390

The President shall warn a competitor who does not fence in a sportsmanlike and correct manner; and in case of a repeated offense may exclude him from the tournament.

391

A fencer, by the mere fact that he enters a competition, is in honor bound to respect the rules and the decisions of the judges, to be courteous toward the jury, to employ the same vigor and attention in each bout, and to defend his chances to the end of the competition in a sportsmanlike manner, without giving to anyone or asking from anyone a single touch, so as to obtain the best personal standing possible, except in case of material or physical incapacity duly verified by the director.

392

The President is required to exclude any fencer who, after one warning, *in his opinion* manifestly tries to favor the play of his opponent. He shall act likewise toward the latter if both are in collusion.

393

The President is required to exclude a fencer who, after one warning, continues either by his play or by his displacements of the body to endanger his opponent, the jury, or the spectators.

394

In all weapons, the President is required to exclude a fencer who, after one warning,

395

* The provisions of this chapter, with minor variations, are applicable to A.F.L.A. competitions. (See Title VII, chapters I, II and III.)

¹ But this announcement shall not bind the jury, who may determine independently whether or not there is a touch. (Congress of 1938.)

Art.
396 commits a vindictive act (such as a brutal hit with any weapon, or a deliberate sabre cut upon parts of the body not included in the target).

In all weapons, the President is required to exclude a fencer who, after one warning, forces the clinch (*corps a corps*) with unnecessary roughness, or who intentionally throws himself violently upon his opponent, or who during infighting intentionally strikes his opponent with the guard, hilt, or pommel.

U.S. (See Art. 580-582.)

397 In all weapons, the running attack (*fleche*) ending in a collision that jostles the opponent is considered an act of unnecessary roughness; when such an attack results in a hit before any warning has been given, the touch may be awarded; but a touch scored under similar conditions after a warning shall be annulled, and the contestant shall be penalized one touch or excluded. The warning is valid for the duration of the entire pool.

398 On the other hand, the running attack (*fleche portee en courant*) which goes beyond the opponent without jostling him is not an act of unnecessary roughness.¹ However, if such an attacker crosses the side boundaries of the field of play, he is liable to the penalties specified in "Crossing the boundaries" (Art. 71, 77, 79).

§ 3. Abnormal stimulants.

399 All forms of "doping" of a fencer during or before a competition are absolutely forbidden. "Doping" includes all stimulants of abnormal usage employed for the purpose of increasing the athletic powers of a competitor beyond the normal.

400 A special commission shall determine which substances are dopes and which are considered normal tonics.²

401 Any "fencer" who knowingly violates this rule, or knowingly lends his assistance to violation of this rule, shall be immediately disqualified, suspended, or excluded from the tournament, without prejudice to later suspension or permanent expulsion.

¹ In this case the President should not prevent the riposte being made, even on the back, by calling "Halt!" too quickly.

² The Federation Internationale Medico-Sportive considered the question of "doping" at its Paris meeting in September 1948. It reached the conclusion that doping should be absolutely forbidden, and defined the term more precisely than the rules of the F.I.E., as follows:

"Doping" includes any substance taken, or treatment applied, on the day of the competition which can artificially or fraudulently increase the true performance of an athlete. However, anything that is done during training with a view solely to re-establishing the physiological equilibrium is not considered "doping."

It is not considered necessary to enumerate the substances that should be prohibited. A study has been made of the substances, diets, and practices which are designed to improve the performance of athletes by placing them in the best possible physiological condition or the best possible "form." Any system which improves form and muscular performance *in a lasting manner* is allowed.

However, innumerable substances provide momentary stimulation and produce a highly ephemeral state of exhilaration. These should be forbidden: for example, strychnine, caffeine, cocaine, atropine, nitro-glycerine, morphine and its derivatives, opiates, opium, arsenical salts, camphor, etc., as well as a variety of products based on coca, kola, caffeine, heroine, coramine, ephedrine, and particularly benzedrine, pervitine, etc.

During training, if there is need, the functional imperfections to which an athlete may be subject can be corrected by therapeutic treatment that provides the necessary basis for the sport for which the athlete is being trained.

§ 4. Punctuality.

At the appointed time, the President designated by the Organizing Committee or the Bout Committee shall call the fencers or teams scheduled to fence under his jurisdiction. If at the first call a fencer or team fails to appear, or if the team is incomplete, the call shall be repeated twice at intervals of one minute. After the third call, any fencer or team who is not actually present shall be irrevocably excluded from the competition then in progress, and no appeal from this decision can be entertained.

During a competition, each bout shall be clearly announced in advance, in order to afford the contestants enough time to get ready. After this announcement, if the fencer scheduled to compete fails to appear at the first order of the President to do so, he shall be excluded irrevocably from the competition then in progress.

Similarly, a fencer who retires from an unfinished bout by leaving the field of play shall be immediately recalled by the President, and if he fails to return at the first order of the President to do so shall be irrevocably excluded from the competition then in progress.

However, when a fencer retires for reasons beyond his control (as for example, broken blade, disarrangement of clothing, accident, indisposition, etc.), the President is authorized to grant such delay as may be necessary before giving his order.

When a team member withdraws at the time that a match is scheduled to be fenced, he may be penalized by disqualification.

§ 5. Spectators.

Spectators are required to refrain from disturbing the good order of the competition, to do nothing which might tend to influence the fencers or the jury, and to respect the decisions of the jury even when they do not approve of them. They must obey whatever suggestions the President deems it necessary to give.

Unless the spectators conform to this rule, the President has the right to demand that they be expelled, and such a measure shall not give anyone whomsoever any right of redress.

§ 6. Replacement of a member of the jury.

It is the *duty* of the Organizing Committee or of the Bout Committee to replace immediately any President or member of the field jury, whenever it is of the opinion that, for any reason whatever and without question of their perfect good faith, a substitution is necessary, either on technical grounds or to maintain the good order of the competition.

§ 7. Protests and appeals.

Against the decisions of the President on the materiality or validity of a hit, no protest is allowed. However, if the President ignores a definite rule, or makes a decision contrary to the rules, a protest on this point is allowed. Such a protest must be made by the fencer concerned, or by his team captain, without any formality, and must be communicated verbally to the President *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch*.

If the President maintains his opinion, an appeal may be made to the Bout Committee and, if necessary, to the Jury of Appeal.

CHAPTER II* — JURISDICTION AND PENALTIES

- Art. 411** § 1. **Applicability.**
The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all persons who take part in, or who are present in any capacity whatever at, an international fencing competition (organizers, officials, team captains, competitors, spectators, trainers, etc., whether amateurs or not, of all nationalities). These persons are described as "fencers" hereinafter.
- 412** § 2. **Classification of offenses.**
The acts included in the following categories are regarded as offenses and are punished according to their gravity:
(a) Violations of the technical rules of combat;
(b) Violations of the rules and decisions of organizing committees or of the F.I.E.;
(c) Lack of respect toward the members of the jury or their decisions;
(d) Conduct which in any form whatsoever jeopardizes the good order and discipline of the competitions or which may be prejudicial to the best interests of fencing.
- 413** § 3. **Nature of penalties.**
I. The following penalties are applicable to the offenses enumerated above:
(a) *Applicable to competitors, team captains, or teams:*
During competitions { Warning.
Penalty of one touch.
Exclusion from the competition.
Disqualification from the tournament.
After the competitions (penalties imposed by the national federation or the Central Office of the F.I.E. according to their jurisdiction): Suspension; expulsion.
(b) *Applicable to officials:*
During competitions: Censure; suspension for the tournament.
After the competitions (by the national federation or the Central Office of the F.I.E.): Extension of suspension; expulsion.
(c) *Applicable to spectators or trainers* (Spectators and trainers who fall within the categories in (a) and (b) above are subject to the penalties provided in those paragraphs):
During competitions: Warning; exclusion.
- 414** II. *Exclusion* from a competition means that the person or the team so excluded cannot continue to take part in it regardless of the standing that may have been obtained.
- 415** III. *Disqualification* from a tournament means that the team or the fencer so disqualified is definitely eliminated from the tournament then in progress; that is, from the competition then in progress and from any subsequent competitions in the same tournament.
- 416** IV. When a penalty has been imposed upon a team, the case of each of its members must be examined individually, and the members of that team may, if appropriate, have different penalties imposed upon them.
- 417** V. *Expulsion* means that the person expelled shall no longer have the right to be present at the tournament then in progress.

* Certain provisions of this chapter are applicable to A.F.L.A. competitions. (See Title VII, chapter II.)

VI. *Suspension* means that the person suspended shall no longer have the right to exercise his functions within the limits of time and space fixed by the decision imposing the penalty. **Art. 418**

VII. *Permanent disqualification* implies the same consequences as suspension, but it is final (without limit of time) unless commuted by virtue of the special clemency provided in Art. 436 hereunder. **419**

§ 4. **Announcement of penalties.**

The Organizing Committee is required to communicate its decision without delay to the national federation to which it belongs, and the latter must make a record of the penalty and advise the Central Office of the F.I.E. immediately. The latter will also record the decision made and shall see to it that it is published in the official magazine. **420**

At the Olympic Games, where the F.I.E. assumes the duties of the Organizing Committee, the Central Office must notify the Olympic Games Committee. **421**

§ 5. **Jurisdiction.**

(a) *Enumeration.*

The right to take cognizance of the offenses described above, and to impose the appropriate penalties is vested in: **422**

- The President of the Jury;
- The Jury of Appeal;
- The Organizing Committee;
- The Bout Committee;
- The national federation;
- The Central Office of the F.I.E.;
- The Congress of the F.I.E.

At the Olympic Games, the World Championships, and the tournaments sponsored by the F.I.E.: In the Bout Committee.

At the Olympic Games, in the Court of Honor, under the conditions specified in Art. 426 below.

(b) *The President of the Jury.*

The violations of the technical rules of combat are penalized by the President of the Jury in accordance with the provisions of the rules for competitions. **423**

The President of the Jury has jurisdiction over all the fencers who participate in or are present at the competition over which he is presiding; he may, without referring to his assistants, pronounce a warning, impose the penalty of one touch, exclude the competitors, expel the spectators or trainers. His decisions on questions of fact are not subject to appeal. He recommends to the Bout Committee or to the Organizing Committee all other penalties which he deems advisable.

(c) *The Jury of Appeal.*

The Jury of Appeal has jurisdiction over all fencers who participate in or are present at a tournament. **424**

The Jury of Appeal shall be convened without delay by the Organizing Committee or by the Bout Committee, either on their own initiative, or upon request of team captains, official delegates of the federations concerned, presidents of jury, or the delegate of the Central Office of the F.I.E. It may impose all the penalties enumerated for the duration of the competitions. It may recommend directly to the Central Office of the F.I.E. the penalty of suspension, the extension of a suspension, or permanent disqualification.

The decisions of the Jury of Appeal can be overruled only by vote of the F.I.E. Congress.

Art. 425 (d) *Organizing Committee and Bout Committee.*

The Organizing Committee, and finally the Bout Committee, have jurisdiction over all the fencers who participate in or are present at the tournament organized or managed by them. They may impose all the penalties enumerated for the duration of the competitions. If it should be necessary, they advise the Jury of Appeals as to complaints and protests that may be addressed to them. They may intervene in all controversies, either at the request of the Jury of Appeal, or on their own initiative whenever absolutely necessary.

The Bout Committee shall transmit directly to the Central Office of the F.I.E. all requests for suspension, extension of suspension, and permanent disqualification. Whenever there is no Bout Committee, the Organizing Committee transmits these requests to its national federation.

The Organizing Committee performs the functions of the Jury of Appeal when the latter cannot be formed. It is under a duty to execute any penalty that is imposed.

426 (e) *The Court of Honor at the Olympic Games.*

The Court of Honor (*Jury d'honneur*) at the Olympic Games is appointed by the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee, and functions according to the General Rules governing the celebration of those Games.

(f) *The national federation.*

427 The national federation is the competent body for all fencing events organized in its territory; it has jurisdiction, through its regular disciplinary procedure, over all fencers residing therein, even on a transient basis.

Within the limits of its territory, it may impose all the penalties enumerated above. It may also recommend to the Central Office of the F.I.E. the extension beyond its own territory of penalties it has imposed.

It shall deal with complaints addressed to it through regular channels; it has the right to bring up directly, at whatever stage the matter may be, any question concerning any offense enumerated above that is committed within its territory.

With respect to a foreign fencer who is not normally under its jurisdiction, the national federation may not impose a penalty except after consultation with the national federation to which the person concerned normally belongs. The latter federation must express its views within one month, exclusive of the time required for transmission of communications. If these views are not expressed within this period of time, the penalty may be imposed. In case of disagreement between the two federations concerned, the complete file on the matter shall be forwarded to the Central Office of the F.I.E.

(g) *Central Office of the F.I.E.*

428 The Central Office of the F.I.E., within the limits of the countries under its jurisdiction, is the competent body to deal with all matters that may be referred to it by a national federation, a Jury of Appeal, or the Bout Committee of any international tournament.

The Central Office of the F.I.E. may impose all the enumerated penalties; it may confirm, increase, or annul the penalties imposed by the lower authorities.

The parties concerned shall always have the right to defend themselves either orally or by written statements within the period of time allowed to them by the Central Office.

(h) *The Congress of the F.I.E.*

429 The Congress of the F.I.E. has the same rights as the Central Office. It may be advised of any matter that may arise either by the Central Office or by one of the affiliated federations.

§ 6. Complaints and protests; procedure.

In all cases involving the imposition of disciplinary penalties, the competent authorities shall reach their decisions in an equitable manner, without being restricted to any procedural regulations, taking into account the gravity of the offense and the circumstances under which it was committed.

Nevertheless, as far as possible the following principles should be observed:

(a) Complaints and protests should be made in writing within a maximum period of one hour after the occurrence giving rise to them;¹ they should be addressed to the Organizing Committee, and finally to the Bout Committee;

(b) No penalty may be imposed until after an inquiry has been made and the parties concerned have been given an opportunity to be heard in explanation of the occurrence, either verbally or in writing within a reasonable interval of time appropriate to the circumstances of time and place. After this time limit has expired, the penalty may be imposed;

(c) The decisions of the Jury of Appeal are made according to the vote of the majority; in case of a tie, the vote of the President shall prevail;

(d) The appeal against a penalty, where permitted, does not by itself suspend the penalty.

§ 7. Stay of execution.

If the party concerned has not previously incurred a penalty of disqualification or suspension, either for the same offense or one substantially similar, with or without stay of execution, the authority which imposes the penalty may, at the same time, grant a stay of execution for a probationary period of a duration that is double that of the suspension imposed.

If during the probationary period, beginning from the date of the decision announcing the imposition of the penalty, the party concerned does not incur any new liability to disciplinary penalties, the original penalty shall be annulled. If the contrary should be the case, then the original penalty shall become effective and shall be added to the new penalty.

§ 8. Repetition of offense.

A fencer is guilty of repeating an offense if he commits a new offense, other than a violation of the rules governing combat: Within two years, if he has previously been reprimanded or warned; within five years, if he has previously been suspended, excluded, or disqualified.

If there is a repetition of an offense, the minimum penalty to be imposed shall be:

(a) Exclusion from the competition (for contestants); suspension during the tournament (for officials); expulsion (for spectators), if the previous penalty was warning or reprimand;

(b) Disqualification from the tournament if the previous penalty was exclusion from a competition;

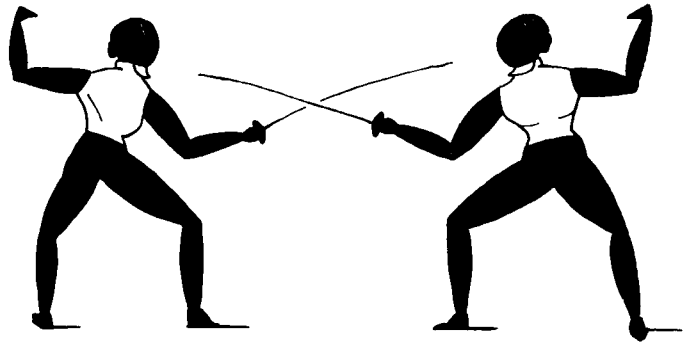
(c) Suspension for double the time of the previous penalty, or permanent disqualification, if the previous penalty was suspension (for competitors or officials).

§ 9. Pardon, remission and commutation of penalty.

In exceptional cases, the Central Office and the Congress of the F.I.E., or a national federation may, after special deliberation, pardon a fencer whom they have punished, remit the remainder of his penalty, or commute the same.

¹ Except as provided in Art. 409.

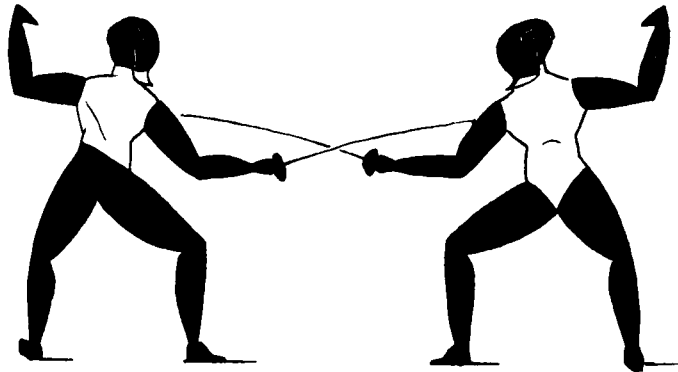
Art.
437



Valid target: **WOMEN'S FOIL**

Note: The bib is not included in the target in competitions judged with the electrical apparatus.

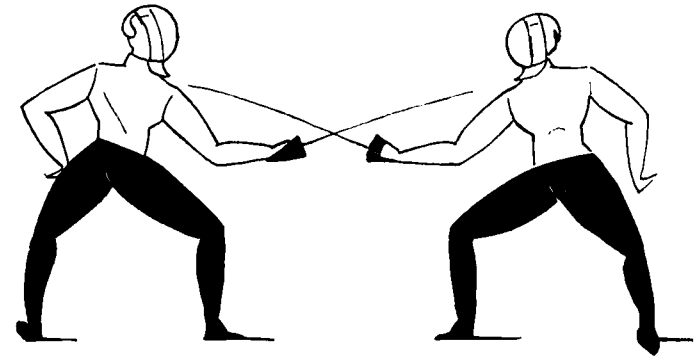
438



Valid target: **FOIL**

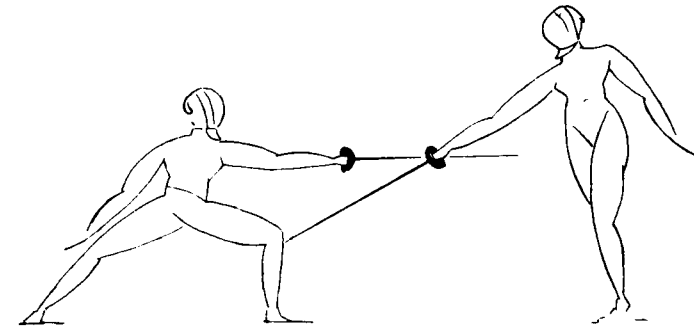
Note: The bib is not included in the target in competitions judged with the electrical apparatus.

Art.
439



Valid target: **SABRE**

440



Valid target: **EPEE**

Note: Title VII begins with Art. 501.

TITLE SEVEN : RULES FOR A.F.L.A. COMPETITIONS

CHAPTER I — GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. — JURISDICTION OF THE A.F.L.A.

§ 1. General information.

- Art. 501** (a) The Amateur Fencers League of America is the official governing body for amateur fencing in the United States, and is recognized in this capacity by the Amateur Athletic Union, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Federation Internationale d'Escrime.
- 502** (b) The Amateur Fencers League of America is a self-governing organization of individual members. Membership is open to citizens and residents of the United States who are genuinely interested in the development of amateur competitive fencing.
- 503** (c) The A.F.L.A. membership is organized into a number of "divisions" or territorial units enjoying substantial autonomy in the conduct of local affairs. Each division is governed by an Executive Committee elected by the members of the division. Divisions are grouped into "sections" for the purpose of conducting major regional tournaments. Non-divisional members (*i.e.* those residing in areas not included within a division) are directly under the jurisdiction of the national Board of Governors.
- 504** (d) The Board of Governors of the A.F.L.A., which includes the national officers and representatives of all divisions, is the supreme governing body of the League and the final authority on all local, inter-divisional, sectional and national questions.

§ 2. Classes of membership.

- 505** (a) There are six classes of membership in the A.F.L.A.: Honorary, Life, Active, Collegiate, Student, and Associate. All classes except Associate must be amateurs (see Title VIII, A.F.L.A. Manual, Amateur Code) and have equal rights to participate in A.F.L.A. competitions; the rights of Honorary, Student, and Associate members to participate in the management of the League are subject to constitutional restrictions.
- 506** (b) Active members are those who have reached the age of twenty-five; Collegiate members are those between the ages of nineteen and twenty-four inclusive; Student members are those under the age of nineteen. Honorary, Life, and Associate memberships have no age restriction. Associate members are non-competitors and need not be amateurs.
- 507** (c) Candidates for membership may file special applications with the Secretary of the League or with the Secretary of a Division, and may be formally admitted to the privileges of membership upon election by the Board of Governors. The Secretary of the League or of any Division is authorized to enroll a candidate as a provisional member provided that the application is endorsed by the secretary of a recognized amateur club of which the candidate is a member, and by two members of the Board of Governors. Such enrollment as a provisional member carries the full rights of the particular class of membership until the meeting of the Board of Governors next succeeding the enrollment (in the case of enrollment by the Secretary of the League) or next succeeding the receipt of notice by the Secretary of the

League of such provisional enrollment (in the case of enrollment by the Secretary of a Division).

(d) New members are charged an initiation fee of \$1.00, in addition to the annual dues for the current season, at the time the application for membership is filed. The basic annual dues for 1957-1958 are \$6.00 for Active members, \$4.00 for Collegiate members, \$3.00 for Associate members, and \$2.00 for Student members.

(e) Under present regulations (1957) all members receive the official organ of the League, *American Fencing*, as part of their membership. Subscriptions to this magazine are \$2.00 in the United States and \$4.00 for foreign countries. Active members receive in addition an individual membership in the F.I.E. without charge. The annual cost of such membership to other A.F.L.A. members desiring it is \$1.00.

§ 3. Authorized competitions.

- (a) Except as hereinafter provided, members of the A.F.L.A. may participate only in competitions scheduled by or under the auspices of the national Board of Governors or of the divisions and sections of the A.F.L.A. Violations of this rule are punishable by disciplinary penalties according to the gravity of the offense.
- (b) Members of the A.F.L.A. are authorized to participate in collegiate and scholastic meets for which they are eligible, and in tournaments organized by the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and similar intercollegiate and interscholastic associations, provided that such events are conducted under fencing rules that substantially conform to the rules of the A.F.L.A.
- (c) Members of the A.F.L.A. are authorized to participate in foreign individual competitions only when such events are organized by or under the sponsorship of a national federation that is a member of the F.I.E. Members of the A.F.L.A. who wish to participate in foreign or international competitions must be holders of F.I.E. licenses and must be certified by the A.F.L.A. as to amateur standing, eligibility, etc. No members of the A.F.L.A. may compete in foreign or international competitions as a team representing the United States except upon specific approval of the Board of Governors.

B. — SCHEDULES AND CLASSIFICATIONS

§ 1. Schedule of events.

- (a) The fencing season officially begins on September 1 and continues through August 31 of the next calendar year.
- (b) At the beginning of each fencing season, the Board of Governors shall draft and publish a schedule of national team and individual events. A similar schedule of divisional and sectional events shall be published by the appropriate Executive Committee.
- (c) Scheduled competitions for men may include events in epee, foil, sabre, and any competition thereof. Women's competitions shall be limited to foil events. Mixed bouts between men and women are not permitted in formal competitions or exhibitions in which touches are counted.
- (d) Championships of any kind (see § 5 below), and all competitions rated nationally in Groups I and II (see § 6 below), shall be competitive events conducted strictly in accord with the rules governing the organization of competitions and with the technical rules and conventions of fencing as provided herein. For other competitions, special regulations differing from the standard rules herein prescribed are permitted, provided that a suitable notice is included in the schedule of events.
- (e) All epee competitions shall be held with the electrical apparatus unless identified in the schedule as "non-electric" epee events.
- (f) When the electrical foil apparatus is to be used in all or part of a foil competition, appropriate notice shall be included in the schedule of events.

Art. 519
520

(g) Academic contests, where the number of touches scored is not the sole criterion for victory in a bout, are permitted, provided that adequate notice of the character of the competition is included in the schedule of events.

(h) The schedule of events should include the following information:

1. The title, classification and national rating (if any) of each competition;
2. The date, hour, and place;
3. The prizes offered;
4. The method and conditions for entries;
5. The terms for admissions of spectators;
6. Any additional information required by the rules governing the organization of competitions or by the technical rules and conventions of fencing.

Sample Form of Schedule

AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Division

1957-1958 Schedule of Events

Entries should be mailed to
(name) (address)

and must be accompanied by the indicated entry fee.

Entries must be postmarked not later than the closing date, 10 days before the date of the event.

All competitors must report to the Bout Committee one-half hour before starting time, and are required to remain at least one round beyond the one in which they are eliminated unless excused by the Bout Committee.

Sat. Oct. 19 1 p.m.	WOMEN—Open—Group II. Jane Doe prizes. * * *	Y.W.C.A. Fee \$1.00
Sun. Jan. 12 10 a.m.	FOIL—Class B Direct elimination. Calnan Memorial medals. * * *	American A.C. Fee \$1.50
Thu. Mar. 6 7 p.m.	SABRE TEAM—Unclassified. Special regulations. James Smith trophy and medals. * * *	Y.M.C.A. Fee \$3.00
Sat. Apr. 19 10 a.m.	EPEE TEAM—Open. Div. Champ. Qual. Rd. Sect. & Nat. Champ. Divisional medals.	Y.M.C.A. Fee \$4.50

Competitions held at:

Y.W.C.A. (address)	Rubber strips.
American A.C.	Cork-linoleum strips.
Y.M.C.A.	Rubber strips.

Spectators admitted free of charge.

§ 2. Classification of fencers.

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For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in competition, fencers are classified nationally on the basis of competitive experience and achievement into the following categories: Class A (highest), Class B, Class C, and Unclassified (lowest). The classification of a fencer in each weapon may be changed only at the end of each fencing season, and once he achieves a higher category he may not compete in a lower one unless there is a revision of these rules and, by definition

applicable to all members, he falls into a new or lower classification. The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

(a) A fencer becomes eligible for *Class A* ranking (1) by winning any of the first six places in the U.S. national individual championship; (2) by winning first place in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional individual competition rated nationally by the Board of Governors as a Group I competition; (3) by competing as a representative of the United States in the fencing events of the Olympic or Pan-American Games; (3) by competing as a representative of the United States in other international events, provided his selection was based on open tryouts; (5) by being a semi-finalist in the individual World Championship; (6) by attaining distinction in another country as a competitive fencer which in the judgment of the Board of Governors is equivalent to that involved in the preceding clauses of this paragraph.

(b) A fencer becomes eligible for *Class B* ranking (1) by achieving success in national competitions that warrants his selection as a Ranking Fencer in any year; (2) by winning second or third place in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional individual competition rated nationally by the Board of Governors as a Group I competition; (3) by winning first place in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional individual competition rated nationally by the Board of Governors as a Group II competition; (4) by winning first, second, or third place in the epee event of any Olympic, Pan-American, or World Championship in the modern pentathlon; (5) by competing in the World or other official international individual championships recognized by the F.I.E.; (6) by competing as a member of an official U.S. fencing team in any international event, when his selection was not based on open tryouts; (7) by competing as a member of a team that wins a U.S. national championships; (8) by attaining Class A rating in another weapon; (9) by attaining distinction in another country as a competitive fencer which in the judgment of the Board of Governors is equivalent to that involved in the preceding clauses of this paragraph.

(c) A fencer becomes eligible for *Class C* ranking (1) by being a finalist in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional competition rated nationally by the Board of Governors as a Group I competition; (2) by winning second or third place in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional competition rated nationally by the Board of Governors as a Group II competition; (3) by competing as a member of a team that places second or third in the U.S. national championship; (4) by becoming a Class B fencer in another weapon; (5) by winning first place in any U.S. sectional, interdivisional, or divisional individual competition, including three-weapon events, designated as a Group III competition by the appropriate sectional or divisional Executive Committee.

(d) A fencer remains *Unclassified* as long as he does not attain classification into Class C, Class B, or Class A under the foregoing rules.

(e) Except as specifically provided herein, the classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect upon his classification in another weapon, and is not affected by his winning or competing in individual three-weapon events, in team events, invitation meets, intercollegiate events, or unofficial club and inter-club competitions.

(f) Every member of the A.F.L.A. is personally responsible for ascertaining his competitive classification in each weapon. However, for the guidance of organizers of competitions, the Board of Governors will endeavor to publish, at the beginning of each fencing season, the list of members of the A.F.L.A. who have attained Class A and Class B ranking. Whenever at a competition there is reasonable doubt concerning the classification of a fencer, the Bout Committee in charge, or the Jury of Appeal, may decide according to its view of the facts of the case, and such determination shall be conclusive for that competition. However, for subsequent competitions

Art. 522

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- the decision shall be subject to review by the appropriate Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors.
- Art. 528** § 3. **Ranking fencers, masters, veterans.**
 Three additional categories exist independently of the classifications established by the preceding rules: Ranking fencers, masters, and veterans. A fencer may be a veteran and a Class C fencer at the same time, or any other combination.
- 529** (a) *Ranking Fencers* in a particular weapon are those who have been selected by the Board of Governors as the strongest competitors in that weapon during a given fencing season for the purpose of the seeded draw in individual competitions for the next succeeding fencing season.
- 530** (b) *Masters* in a particular weapon are those who have competed in it as members of a U.S. Olympic or Pan-American team; winners of national championships or of two or more medals in that weapon in the national individual championships; and Associate members who are actively teaching the sport at a recognized club or educational institution.
- 531** (c) *Veterans* are all fencers who (1) have attained the age of 50 years; or (2) have attained the age of 40 years and in addition have retired from all competitions except the Veteran's individual events or team events in which they participate as members of a composite team made up exclusively of veterans.
- § 4. **Designation of competitions.**
- 532** (a) An *Open* competition is one in which all amateur members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to compete without restrictions as to class, rank, or divisional membership.
- 533** (b) A *Closed* competition is a sectional, interdivisional, or divisional competition in which the eligibility of competitors is limited on the basis of divisional membership.
- 534** (c) A *restricted* competition is one in which the eligibility of competitors is limited on the basis of classification, rank, age, academic status, or special invitation.
- (1) A Class A competition is one which is open to Class A and Ranking fencers; it may be open to other members of the A.F.L.A. only to the extent noted in the schedule of events;
- (2) The designation of other competitions (e.g. Class B, Class C) indicates the highest category of fencers permitted to participate therein, but these competitions are also open to fencers of lower categories unless the contrary is specifically announced in the schedule of events.
- (3) Restricted competitions limited to competitors of a certain age or academic status shall not be further restricted on the basis of classification or rank unless organized and announced as invitation events.
- § 5. **Championships** (See Art. 516).
- 535** The title of "championship" shall be limited to the more important competitions or tournaments in divisional, interdivisional, sectional, or national schedules, as follows:
- 536** (a) *National championships* include the individual open epee, foil, sabre, and three-weapon championships for men, the individual open foil championship for women, and the corresponding team events. The Board of Governors reserves the right to designate other competitions as national championships, open or restricted.
- 537** (b) *Sectional championships* include the Midwest, North Atlantic, Pacific Coast, and Southwest Open inter-divisional championships, individual and team. No restricted competitions shall be designated as sectional championships except upon approval of the Board of Governors when the number of highly classified fencers in a section is large enough to warrant a separate championship limited to fencers in the lower classifications.

(c) *Divisional championships* may be open or closed, but no restricted competition shall be designated as a divisional championship except upon approval of the Board of Governors when the number of highly classified fencers in a section is large enough to warrant a separate championship limited to fencers in the lower classifications.

§ 6. **National rating of competitions.**

The results of sectional, interdivisional, divisional, or intercollegiate championships, or other competitions not designated as national championships, shall not have the effect of classifying any competitor above Class C unless the particular event has been rated by the Board of Governors as a Group I or Group II competition. The national rating of competitions shall normally be made by the Board of Governors on its own motion or upon petition by the appropriate governing body and a showing that the probable strength of the competition warrants the classification of prize winners in the higher categories. National ratings of competitions will normally be changed only at the beginning of a fencing season by action of the Board of Governors on its own motion or upon petitions of the appropriate governing body submitted, with reasons therefor, prior to September 1.

(a) *Group I competitions* will be designated as such by the Board of Governors and will normally include only those sectional, interdivisional, and divisional championships which draw a substantial number of Class A and Class B competitors and provide a level of competition in the finals which is comparable to that of the semi-final round of the national championships. In Group I competitions, the first-place winner shall become a Class A fencer, second and third place winners shall become Class B fencers, and other finalists shall become Class C fencers if not previously ranked in such classifications.

(b) *Group II competitions* will be designated as such by the Board of Governors and will normally include the sectional championships not rated in Group I, those divisional and interdivisional competitions which draw a fair number of Class B and experienced Class C fencers and provide a level of competition in the finals which is comparable to that of the quarter-final round of the national championships, and the strongest intercollegiate championships. In Group II competitions, the first-place winner shall become a Class B fencer, and second and third place winners shall become Class C fencers if not previously ranked in such classifications.

§ 7. **Divisional and sectional rating of competitions.**

(a) *Group III competitions* will be designated as such by the appropriate divisional or sectional Executive Committee on an autonomous basis. The first-place winner of a Group III competition shall become a Class C fencer if not previously ranked in such classification.

(b) All competitions ranked nationally in Group I and Group II, and all competitions ranked sectionally or divisionally in Group III, shall be identified as such in the appropriate sectional, interdivisional, or divisional schedules. All other divisional, interdivisional, or sectional competitions shall have no bearing on the national classification of contestants.

(c) However, in addition, every division is formally authorized to schedule and hold competitions restricted to unclassified fencers, or to fencers under a certain age, or to such unclassified fencers as are novices or relatively inexperienced; provided that, if some unclassified fencers are barred from such events, an appropriate description of the basis of eligibility of contestants shall be announced in the schedule.

(d) In drafting divisional schedules, the Executive Committee of each division should take into account the general caliber of fencers likely to participate in the various competitions, in order to determine which events should be rated in Group

III and to determine whether application should be made to the Board of Governors for Group I or Group II rating for the more important competitions.

C. — ENTRIES

Art. § 1. Administrative provisions.

546 (a) The national Board of Governors for national competitions, and the appropriate Executive Committee for sectional, interdivisional and divisional competitions, shall in the schedule of events announce the name and address of the person to whom entries shall be forwarded, the closing date for entries, and the entry fee for each event on the schedule.

547 (b) Unless otherwise specified in the schedule of events, entries for all competitions shall be forwarded in writing to the Chairman of the appropriate Bout Committee at least one week in advance of the time set for any competition which the individual or team desires to enter. The entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee. Entries for the national championship tournament are subject to the special regulations provided in Chapter V, Art. 761-765.

548 (c) The entry fees fixed by the Board of Governors or the appropriate Executive Committee must include a minimum charge of 10¢ to be collected from every contestant in team and individual events and forwarded to the Secretary of the A.F.L.A. to be deposited in the special fund for the rotation of the national championships.

549 (d) The Board of Governors and the appropriate Executive Committee may determine the conditions for refund of entry fees to contestants who withdraw prior to the beginning of a competition. Unless otherwise specified in the schedule of events, entry fees received in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) above will be refunded if the Bout Committee receives notice of the withdrawal not less than 72 hours before the competition is scheduled to start.

§ 2. Eligibility.

550 (a) Only members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to compete in team or individual events scheduled by or under the auspices of the Amateur Fencers League of America except by special invitation of the appropriate divisional or sectional Executive Committee for competitions under its jurisdiction, or of the Board of Governors for national competitions.

551 (b) No member of a division shall be in good standing unless his division is in good standing according to the established rules and practices of the A.F.L.A. Consequently, if a member's division is not in good standing and he wishes to compete in any event scheduled outside the jurisdiction of his division, he must become a non-divisional member by the payment of dues directly to the national Secretary.

552 (c) A fencer who has entered a competition but has failed to pay the required entry fee, and who has either taken part in the competition or failed to withdraw therefrom in time, shall be liable to the League for the amount of the entry fee, and shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent competition until restored to good standing by payment of the sum due.

553 (d) The Bout Committee shall reject any entry from a member of the A.F.L.A. who is not in good standing because he is in arrears for dues or entry fees, or because of the imposition of disciplinary penalties, or otherwise.

554 (e) Every entry certifies its eligibility for the particular event, not only with respect to A.F.L.A. membership in good standing but also as to compliance with every restriction on classification, club representation, etc.

§ 3. Club representation.

555 (a) The term "club" or "fencing club" as used in these rules shall include any club, educational institution, association, or otherwise designated body of individual

members. A recognized club is one which has a reasonably stable organizational structure of membership, a place for regular fencing activity at least once a week, and if possible a professional fencing master for lessons and training.

(b) No fencer resigning from one club and joining another, or holding membership in two or more clubs, shall within the same fencing season transfer his representation from one club to another without special permission of the Board of Governors. This permission will not be granted for a fencer to represent more than one club in team events within the same fencing season, except in the case of members of the armed forces representing appropriate service units who may be transformed by official orders.

(c) A fencer who is a member of two or more clubs may elect to represent any one of the clubs of which he is a member. A college or scholastic fencer who is also a member of another recognized club may represent his school in dual meets and intercollegiate or interscholastic events, and also represent the other club in A.F.L.A. events, but in such a case he may not represent his school in A.F.L.A. events.

(d) A fencer who, while a member of a recognized club, elects to fence unattached, may not be permitted to represent any club during the remainder of the season in individual competition, and may not compete in team events except as a member of composite teams.

D. — MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

§ 1. Basic regulations.

(a) Every fencer engaging in competition, and every other person attending a competition in any capacity whatsoever, does so at his own risk and peril, and neither the organization under whose jurisdiction a competition is held, nor any organization furnishing the place where a competition is held, nor any officer, official, agent, or employee of either of the aforementioned organizations, shall be liable in any manner for any damage or injury suffered by any person as a competitor, official, attendant, or spectator at a fencing event; and the same shall apply whether or not such fencer or person shall have complied with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, and whether or not the President of the Jury or any other official or officials shall have waived strict compliance therewith.

(b) The contestants and officials shall know and observe the rules. The plea of ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

§ 2. Physical facilities, equipment, and personnel.

(a) The Executive Committee of each division or section shall be responsible for the provision of adequate facilities and equipment for the conduct of competitions under its jurisdiction. These duties may be delegated to an Organizing Committee functioning at the place where the competitions are held, or to the Bout Committee in charge of the event.

(b) For the national championships, the Board of Governors shall designate the Organizing Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee of the division where the championships are to be held. The Organizing Committee shall be separate from the Bout Committee.

(c) It is the duty of the Executive Committee or of the Organizing Committee to provide the following facilities for competition in all weapons:

1. A place for the competition that is large enough to hold the event, well lighted and ventilated;

2. A sufficient number of strips, not less than 40 feet in length and properly spaced with due regard to the safety of officials and spectators, to permit the running of the event within a reasonable time. For the national championships, a minimum of eight strips should be available;

3. Suitable accommodations for the work of the Bout Committee, scorers and time keepers;
4. Suitable dressing quarters and shower facilities for competitors.
- Art. 564 (d) For epee and foil competitions to be conducted with the electrical apparatus, the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee shall in addition provide:
1. A sufficient number of electrical registration machines, including reels, to run the event efficiently, taking into account the need of spare machines and reels for prompt replacement in case of breakdowns. For the national championships a minimum of ten machines and ten pairs of reels should be available. This equipment shall be obtained at least 24 hours in advance of the competition and shall be submitted to one or more technicians qualified to certify that the entire apparatus is in proper working order;
2. One or more technicians competent to repair the electrical apparatus and the personal armament of contestants in case of breakdown in the course of the competition, and suitable facilities for the performance of this work.
- 565 (e) For all major competitions, the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee shall, if possible, also provide:
1. Facilities and personnel for weapon-check prior to the competition;
2. A supply of spare weapons (and body cords in electrical competitions) for rental to contestants whose personal armament breaks down during the competition and cannot be repaired without undue delay in the conduct of the event;
3. Suitable facilities for the control and accommodation of spectators and press;
4. Metallic strips for competitions held with electrical weapons.
- 566 (f) It is also the duty of the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee to make suitable arrangements for the presentation of prizes, if any, at the appropriate time.
- § 3. Juries and auxiliary personnel.**
- 567 (a) It is the function of the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee to make arrangements to invite a sufficient number of officials to serve as members of juries, scorers, time-keepers, etc., for efficient conduct of competitions. (See Art. 283.) On the duties of juries, see Art. 92 ff.
- 568 (b) The President of the Jury and the judges in official A.F.L.A. competitions shall be amateurs in good standing, except that for divisional and sectional competitions a jury may contain one or more non-amateur members of the League if such a decision is made by affirmative action of the appropriate Executive Committee.
- § 4. Bout committee.**
- 569 (a) The Bout Committee is responsible for and in complete charge of A.F.L.A. competitions within its jurisdiction. It has the power to accept or reject entries; to determine the structure and schedule of competition; to assign competitors to their places in pools or in direct-elimination contests; to appoint and remove officials; to admit, exclude, or expel spectators; and in general to do all things necessary to the proper organization and administration of the event.
- 570 (b) The Bout Committee for all A.F.L.A. events shall consist of members of the League in good standing. If professional Associate members serve on the Committee, they may not participate in the seeding of pools.
- 571 (c) The decisions of the Bout Committee on matters within its discretion are final. However, if the Bout Committee ignores a positive prescription of the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest by the aggrieved person or team is allowed. Such a protest must be made to the Chairman or acting chairman of the Committee, without any formality, before the course of the competition has been materially

affected. Failure to file a protest promptly shall constitute a waiver of the aggrieved person's rights.

(d) If the protest referred to in the preceding paragraph is overruled by the Bout Committee, the aggrieved person or team may appeal to the Jury of Appeal. (See Art. 583-591.)

(e) The Bout Committee has no power to amend the rules of fencing. In emergency situations, the Bout Committee may waive or modify the rules of organization for a particular event with the unanimous consent of all the fencers directly or indirectly affected; but in all cases this action is subject to review by the divisional or sectional Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors.

§ 5. Duties of spectators.

(a) For the purpose of these rules, the term "spectator" applies to any and all persons attending a competition who are not at the moment engaged in active participation therein, either as contestants or as members of the jury or in any other official capacity recognized by these rules.

(b) Spectators are required, in the interest of safety and good order, to sit or stand at a distance of *not less than six feet* from the limits of the strip. They must not cross the field of play at any time during the course of a bout, nor in any way block the vision or impede the movement of the officials, even momentarily. Further, the provisions of Art. 407-408 are applicable in the United States.

CHAPTER II — ORDER AND DISCIPLINE

A. — BASIC PRINCIPLES

§ 1. Authority and responsibility of officials.

(a) In the interests of efficiency and good order at fencing competitions, and of promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, the Bout Committee in charge of the event and the President of the Jury in charge of the bout are vested with broad powers of administration and discipline. In the exercise of their powers they are *turn bound* by the rules of competition and the code of good sportsmanship.

(b) The jurisdiction of the President of the Jury, the Bout Committee, and the Jury of Appeal, extends to all persons participating in, or present at, a competition.

§ 2. Applicability of international code of discipline.

The provisions of the International Code of Discipline (Title VI, Art. 387-436) shall generally be applicable to competitions in the United States, with such modifications as are required by the structure and constitution of the A.F.L.A. and by the provisions of this Title that may require the imposition of more severe penalties in certain cases.

§ 3. Warnings.

A *warning* (see Art. 413) is a formal notice that there has been a breach of the rules of competition, or of good order, or of good sportsmanship, and that if the offense is repeated a penalty may be inflicted. A warning may be given by the President of the Jury, or the Bout Committee, or the Jury of Appeal, to any and all persons, including spectators.

§ 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct (Cf. Art. 395, 396, 397).

(a) In the United States, a fencer who commits a vindictive act, or who during fighting intentionally strikes his opponent, shall *immediately* be penalized one touch;

and upon repetition of the offense *during any part of the competition* shall be irrevocably excluded from further participation.

Art. 581 (b) A fencer who provokes the clinch (*corps a corps*) with unnecessary roughness, or who intentionally throws himself upon his opponent, shall immediately be warned; and upon intentional repetition of the offense *during the same pool* or group of bouts shall be excluded from the competition.

582 (c) In applying Article 397 in the United States, a fencer who jostles his opponent at the end of a running attack, after he has been warned shall be penalized by the annulment of any hit that he may have scored and by having a touch scored against him if the collision was unintentional; but if the collision is deemed intentional he shall be excluded from the competition. In any case, the warning remains in force *during the same pool*.

B. — THE JURY OF APPEAL

§ 1. Procedure on appeal.

583 (a) At any competition, if a protest against a decision of the Bout Committee or of the President of the Jury—where permitted—has been properly filed and has been overruled, an appeal may be taken to the Jury of Appeal for that competition. The existence of the right of appeal, however, does not suspend the operation of a disciplinary penalty pending the hearing of the appeal.

584 (b) Notice of appeal from the decision of the Bout Committee or of the President of the Jury must first be given to the Bout Committee. No other body may recognize a competition appeal prior to its registry with the Bout Committee.

585 (c) Upon the filing of such notice of appeal, and on any other occasion deemed necessary, the Bout Committee shall on its own initiative, or at the request of an individual competitor, team captain, President or member of a jury, or other official, call together the Jury of Appeal for that competition.

§ 2. Composition of Jury of Appeal.

586 (a) The Jury of Appeal at a national competition shall be composed of all members of the national Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors present at the competition, and a member from every division competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either an officer of the division or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

587 (b) The Jury of Appeal at a sectional competition shall be composed of all members of the sectional Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors and all members of the sectional Executive Committee present at the competition, and a member from every division competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either an officer of the division or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

588 (c) The Jury of Appeal at a divisional competition shall be composed of all members of the divisional Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors and all other members of the divisional Executive Committee present at the competition, and a member from every club competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either the club captain or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

§ 3. Authority of Jury of Appeal.

589 (a) The Jury of Appeal, by majority vote, has the power to decide finally all appeals made to it for interpretation of the rules and to impose the penalties of warning, exclusion, disqualification, and expulsion. (See Art. 413-418 inclusive.)

(b) In case the penalty of exclusion or disqualification is inflicted during a competition upon an individual or team, the Jury of Appeal shall determine whether the penalty is for violation of a technical rule or for a serious breach of good order or a flagrant violation of the code of good sportsmanship. If the former, the application of the penalty should not in principle deprive an individual or team of any placement or prizes earned before the commission of the offense. If the latter, the application of the penalty may include forfeiture of any placement or prizes earned during the competition in which the offense was committed. In all cases, the record of the action taken and the reasons therefor must be forwarded to the Board of Governors, through proper channels, within one week.

(c) In addition to the foregoing, the Jury of Appeal may by majority vote recommend to the appropriate Executive Committee or to the Board of Governors the imposition of the more severe disciplinary penalties, *i.e.*, reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from the Amateur Fencers League of America.

C. — PENALTIES AFFECTING MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS

§ 1. Authority of the Board of Governors.

(a) The Board of Governors, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, has full power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to, or expel any member of the Amateur Fencers League of America whose conduct shall be deemed to have been prejudicial to the welfare, interests, or character of the League.

(b) These penalties may be imposed on recommendation of the Jury of Appeal upon a contestant (individual or team) for improper conduct at a competition; or at the request of an aggrieved member of the League upon any official who has been guilty of abusing his authority; or on the Board's own motion upon any member of the League who has been guilty of improper conduct in matters not connected with competitions.

§ 2. Definition of penalties.

(a) A *reprimand* is a formal statement of disapproval by the Board of the conduct of a member, which if repeated may lead to the imposition of more severe penalties.

(b) *Suspension* means that the persons suspended will no longer have the right to exercise his functions or to enjoy his privileges as a member of the A.F.L.A. for a specific period of time.

(c) *Expulsion* from the A.F.L.A. or *denial of continued membership* means that the person concerned will be permanently excluded from the privileges of membership.

§ 3. Procedural requirements.

(a) The penalties of suspension for a period of more than one year, expulsion from the League or denial of continued membership may be imposed only upon compliance with the following procedure:

1. Notice shall be given promptly by the Secretary of the A.F.L.A. to the League member affected, and to the members of the Board of Governors, of the action proposed to be taken, with a statement setting forth generally the charges of improper conduct or the grounds upon which the penalty is to be imposed;

2. Upon request of the League member affected, or on motion of any three members of the Board after receipt of notice of the proposed action, the President shall appoint a committee of not less than five members of the League to investigate the charges of improper conduct or the grounds upon which the penalty is to be imposed; to give the member of the League affected an opportunity to be heard in respect to such charges or grounds; to report its findings (in such detail, if any, as the committee may deem appropriate); and to recommend, by majority vote of its membership, the action to be taken by the Board of Governors;

Art. 590

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3. If no request or motion for the appointment of an investigating committee is made, or if the investigating committee's report recommends that the Board of Governors impose the proposed penalty, the Board of Governors at a regular or special meeting may take such action as it deems proper, and such action shall be final and without appeal. If the investigating committee's report recommends that the Board of Governors do *not* impose the proposed penalty, the Board may not impose the penalty in question, but may impose a lesser penalty (not exceeding suspension for one year or less) or may dismiss the charges completely, according to its view of the matter. In any case, appropriate notice of the action taken shall be forwarded to the member of the League affected and shall be entered upon the minutes of the Board.

Art.
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(b) The penalty of reprimand and the penalty of suspension for a period of one year or less may be imposed by the Board of Governors without affording the member of the League affected an opportunity to be heard; but in such case:

1. An appropriate notice of the action taken shall be forwarded immediately to the person reprimanded or suspended; and he shall in turn be entitled to a hearing before an investigating committee of the Board (as provided above) by filing a written demand therefor with the Secretary of the League within fifteen days after receipt of the notice of the action taken;

2. No suspension shall be valid for more than forty-five days from the date of receipt by the Secretary of timely written demand for a hearing, unless prior to the expiration of this period a hearing has been held and a decision by the Board has been rendered imposing the penalty of suspension for a period longer than the aforesaid forty-five days.

§ 4. Authority of Executive Committee.

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The appropriate divisional Executive Committee (but not the sectional Executive Committee) may also impose the penalty of reprimand and the penalty of suspension for one year or less. Such action shall be deemed to have been taken, without a hearing, by the Board of Governors as a whole, and the provisions of the preceding rule shall apply. If the penalized fencer does not within fifteen days after receipt of formal notice avail himself of the right to a hearing by the Board, this action shall be deemed final, and shall not be subject to appeal to the Board of Governors except upon affirmative motion of the Board to hear such appeal. In all cases of reprimand or suspension, the divisional Executive Committee shall forward to the Board of Governors a record of the action taken and the reasons therefor within one week of formal notice to the League member affected.

§ 5. Observance of equitable principles.

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The equitable principles set forth in Articles 430-436 of the International Code of Discipline shall govern the imposition of disciplinary penalties in the United States, with such modifications as may be necessary to conform to the structural organization of the A.F.L.A.

CHAPTER III — ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

A. — GENERAL REGULATIONS

§ 1. Applicability of international rules.

(a) A distinction shall be made on the one hand between the technical rules of fencing (generally those of Titles I, II, III, and IV) which govern the specifications for weapons and equipment, the ground rules, the methods of combat, and the conventions of the different weapons; and on the other hand the rules for organization

and conduct of competitions (generally those of Titles V and VI) which refer to the number of touches, time limits, plan of competition including fence-offs, withdrawal of contestants, discipline, etc.).

(b) In principle, the technical rules of fencing in the United States shall conform strictly to the international rules, except to the extent that specific modifications have been approved by the Board of Governors. (These are set forth in each Article in Titles I to IV inclusive.)

(c) On the other hand, the international rules for organization and conduct of competitions are not mandatory in the United States, except for international events. Other competitions shall be organized and conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Title VII, and the international rules shall be applicable only to the extent specified herein.

§ 2. Surface of strip.

Official championships shall be held indoors on linoleum or cork strips. Outdoor epee and sabre competitions shall be held on firm ground (asphalt, level soil, pavement, etc.). Any authorized deviation from the foregoing must be announced in the schedule of events.

§ 3. Time schedule.

For tournaments consisting of several events, and for single competitions of unusual length, the Organizing Committee shall plan the time schedule to conform as far as possible to the international rules (Art. 290-293 inclusive).

§ 4. Sequence of events.

The international rules governing the sequence of competitions (Art. 286-289) are not mandatory for United States tournaments.

B. — SCORING AND TIME LIMITS

§ 1. Number of touches: epee, foil, sabre.

(a) Round-robin and pool competitions.

1. Except when otherwise announced in the schedule, the number of touches per bout in A.F.L.A. competitions organized on a round-robin or pool system shall conform to the rules governing the World Championships (Art. 385). The appropriate Executive Committee or the Board of Governors may establish a greater or smaller number of touches for a competition or for the final round thereof;

2. The term "five touches" (or any other number of touches) means that the bout shall end when one of the contestants has received the specified number of touches (except as modified for certain cases in epee and in bouts requiring a two-touch advantage for victory).

(b) Direct elimination events.

1. Individual competitions by direct elimination shall ordinarily be fenced on the basis of individual matches for the best two out of three standard bouts, as provided in the international rules (Art. 354);

2. As an alternative, the schedule of events may provide that such individual competitions may be held on the basis of single bouts for 10 or more touches (in all weapons for men) or 8 or more touches (in foil for women), with a two-touch advantage required for victory (See, however, Art. 627 on bouts unfinished at the expiration of time limits);

3. The schedule of events may also provide for the longer bout or individual match in the case of team events organized on the basis that each team member meets only one member of the opposing team during a team match.

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Art. § 2. Three-weapon bouts.

612 (a) Three-weapon bouts between two individual contestants shall be fenced as follows: The contestants shall fence first with the foil until the *aggregate* score of both fencers is five touches; then they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in epee; and, finally, they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in sabre. The contestants change weapons, therefore, when the score in any weapon is 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2. Since the maximum aggregate number of touches is 15, the contestant who first scores *eight touches* on his opponent shall be declared the winner.

613 (b) In three-weapon bouts, double touches in epee shall be scored as a touch for each contestant, as provided in the regular rules, except in case the double touch occurs after the aggregate number of touches already fenced in epee is four. In this case, the double touch shall be annulled and the epee part of the bout shall be continued until one of the fencers alone receives the last touch.

614 (c) The order in which the weapons shall be fenced may be modified only when the Bout Committee prescribes in advance a uniform formula applicable to all contestants.

§ 3. Duties of scorer.

615 (a) Upon the award of a touch by the President of the Jury, the scorer shall record the touch against the fencer who has been touched. (A sample official scoring sheet for individual events appears on the opposite page.)

616 (b) Penalty touches are scored exactly as touches received in ordinary combat.

617 (c) After each touch, the scorer shall announce the score aloud for the information of the contestants and the interest of the spectators.

618 (d) The scorer shall act as time-keeper if no other official has been appointed for this purpose.

§ 4. Time limits.

619 (a) The official time limits for A.F.L.A. bouts shall be the following:

<i>Epee</i> (one touch)	Five minutes
<i>Epee</i> (two to five touches)	Ten minutes
<i>Foil</i> (four touches)	Eight minutes
<i>Foil</i> and <i>sabre</i> (five touches)	Ten minutes
<i>All weapons</i> (eight or ten touches)	Fifteen minutes
<i>Three-weapon bouts</i>	Five minutes per weapon

620 (b) The Bout Committee is empowered to modify these limits whenever the occasion requires, but no multiple-touch bout shall be limited to less than five minutes.

621 (c) The duration of each bout includes only those periods of time during which the contestants are fencing or are at liberty to fence. As far as possible the periods of combat shall be measured exactly by a stop-watch. Time is "in" from the moment the President of the Jury gives the command to play until the bout is halted in accordance with the rules. Time is "out" during the deliberations of the jury and other interruptions.

622 (d) Except in case of accident or unavoidable interruption of the bout, a contestant is not permitted to ask for "time out." No additional periods of rest may be granted beyond those provided by the deliberations of the jury, except as required by the rules in case of accident or for direct-elimination competitions.

§ 5. Duties of time keeper.

623 (a) The time keeper shall measure the duration of the bout as provided above. When no stop-watch is available, or when so decided by the Bout Committee, the

A.F.L.A. SCORE SHEET
Individual Competition
Pool of 6 fencers; bouts of 5 touches

Name	No.	Bouts						Touches		Place		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Won	Lost		Rec.	Sc.
Smith, J.	1	×			III V	III		1				
Gray, C.	2		×			IIII .D			1			
Bell, R.	3			×			II V	1				
Werner, W.	4	IIII .D			×				1			
Karl, O.	5	III	0 V			×		1				
Terry, M.	6			IIII .D			×		1			

ORDER	1-4 ✓	5-1 ✓	1-6	3-1	1-2
OF	2-5 ✓	6-2	2-3	4-2	4-6
BOUTS	3-6 ✓	4-3	5-4	6-5	3-5

Explanation: The first three bouts of the pool have been completed with the following results. Smith (1) has defeated Werner (4), 5-3; Karl (5) has defeated Gray (2), 5-0; Bell (3) has defeated Terry (6), 5-2. The fourth bout is now being fenced between Karl (5) and Smith (1), and the score is tied at 3-3. The fifth bout, between Terry (6) and Gray (2), has been called by the scorer who has marked the appropriate squares with a dot (.).

At the conclusion of the pool the scorer will determine the number of victories and defeats for each contestant, and the number of touches received by him, by adding the appropriate items horizontally along the line bearing the contestant's name and number. The number of touches scored is determined by adding vertically the column headed by the fencer's number. The score-sheet should then be signed by the scorer and by the President of the Jury for transmission to the Bout Committee.

duration of the bout prior to the last two minutes, may be measured approximately; but the last two minutes should be measured as accurately as possible.

Art. 624 (b) The time keeper shall engage the attention of the President of the Jury *two minutes* and *one minute* before the expiration of the time limit, so that the President may stop the bout and give the warnings required by the rules.

625 (c) The time keeper shall call "Time!" when the limit for the bout has expired. This call fixes the time limit, even if the President has not called halt.

§ 6. Unfinished bouts.

626 (a) In case a bout is unfinished when the time limit expires, the procedure shall be as provided in Article 84, except when a two-touch advantage is required for victory.

627 (b) In case a two-touch advantage is required for victory, if at the end of the time limit one of the competitors has a two-touch advantage, the usual rules shall apply. If, however, the two contestants are tied, or one of them is leading by only one touch, the procedure shall be as follows:

1. To the score of both contestants, the same number of touches shall be added, so that the contestant who has received the larger number of touches at the end of the time limit (or both contestants if they are tied) shall be deemed to have the maximum originally provided in the rules;

2. After a compulsory period of rest, of two minutes' duration, the bout shall be resumed and the time limit shall be extended by five minutes. If either contestant at any time during this period succeeds in gaining a two-touch advantage, he shall be declared the winner;

3. After the expiration of the second time limit, the requirement of a two-touch advantage shall be eliminated. Therefore, if one contestant then leads by one touch, he shall be declared the winner; if the two contestants are tied, the bout shall be continued without limit of time until one of them scores the decisive touch.

C. — JUDGING

§ 1. Applicability of international rules.

628 In principle, the judging of touches in all weapons shall conform to international standards as provided in Titles I to IV inclusive. The additional rules herein contained are intended to clarify questions that have arisen in the United States.

§ 2. Neutrality of juries.

629 (a) In team events, no member of the jury shall be a member or teacher of either club participating in a match; and in intercollegiate or interscholastic events this prohibition shall apply to alumni of the competing colleges or schools.

630 (b) In individual events, the members of the jury should not belong to the same club as, or be the teachers of, either contestant. For practical reasons, however, final decision on this matter as regards amateur officials rests solely with the Bout Committee.

§ 3. Materiality of hits.

631 (a) The function of the judges is to assist the President of the Jury in establishing the materiality of a hit. This is a question of fact, *i.e.*, whether or not there has been a hit.

632 (b) In foil, the position of the sword arm while in the "on guard" position or during the execution of a parry, particularly in the inside lines, shall not be construed as an illegal masking of the target under Art. 126.

633 (c) The rules governing the extension of the target apply only if the fencer at fault has been hit. If the fencer has not been hit anywhere, no "theoretical" touch

may be called against him, except of course in the case of penalties wherever applicable.

§ 4. Validity of hits.

(a) In all weapons, when one contestant alone has been validly touched, and there is no reason for the annulment of the touch under the rules of competition and discipline, the touch shall be awarded.

(b) In all weapons, when both contestants have been touched on the target, the decision as to validity is based first on the time element. If there is an appreciable time between the two touches in epee, or a full fencing tempo (Art. 14) in foil and sabre, only the first touch is scored.

(c) In foil and sabre, when the contestants have been touched on the target simultaneously (*i.e.* without a difference of a full fencing tempo), the conventional "right of way" shall be applied to determine which one (or whether neither) of the two touches shall be scored. (See Art. 138-143, 261-266.)

(d) In foil and sabre, when the contestants have been hit simultaneously, but one hit arrives on the target, while the other arrives outside the target, the principles of the "right of way" shall be applied to determine whether the good touch shall be scored. If the hit off the target has the "right of way," the whole action must be annulled.

(e) In epee, when the President of the Jury announces "double touch," this means that a touch is to be scored against both contestants. In foil and sabre, on the other hand, a "double touch" means that the entire action has been annulled without a score for either contestant.

§ 5. Reversal of decisions.

The President of the Jury has the power to annul a touch already awarded, or to reverse his decision against the awarding of a touch, if he discovers (a) that a judge has voted incorrectly on the materiality of the hit through a misconception or misapplication of the rules, or (b) that he has himself erred under the rules in deciding the validity of the touch. But such annulment or reversal of decision must be made *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch* in the bout. This power cannot be exercised later, as it may then involve an undue disadvantage to the fencer unfavorably affected by the annulment or reversal.

D. — INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

§ 1. Form of competition.

(a) For any individual competition, the minimum number of actual contestants shall be four, except when otherwise ruled by the appropriate governing body.

(b) Individual competitions may be organized in a particular weapon as direct-elimination contests (losers dropping out), as complete round-robins (each contestant meeting every other contestant), on the basis of pools with two or more rounds, or partly on a pool and partly on a direct-elimination basis. Competitions in a particular weapon to be held on the basis of direct elimination, in whole or in part, shall be so designated in the announcement of the event.

(c) Individual three-weapon events shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of direct elimination throughout.

(d) Events in a particular weapon, where the number of actual contestants is nine or less, shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of a complete round-robin. Where the number of contestants is ten or more, events in a particular weapon shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of pools with two or more rounds.

Art. § 2. Seeding and byes: Round-robins and pools.

644 (a) In all elimination rounds, the Bout Committee shall endeavor as far as possible to separate representatives of the same club or division, so that they shall not meet in these rounds. This principle is superior to the seeded draw if the two conflict.

645 (b) In the first elimination round, the principle of the seeded draw shall be used to distribute contestants among the different pools. For this purpose, the Bout Committee is required to follow generally the list of Ranking Fencers. When no rankings are available, and there are several representatives of the same club in the competition, the captain of each club shall furnish to the Bout Committee a ranking list of its fencers for purposes of seeding.

646 (c) In subsequent elimination rounds, the seeded draw shall be based on the results of the preceding elimination round, as provided in the international rules. (Art. 320.)

647 (d) In major competitions organized on the pool basis, one or more Ranking Fencers may be granted byes into the second round in order of their rank. All Ranking Fencers, however, must be on hand at the scheduled starting time. In competitions of lower category, organized on a pool basis, no byes are permitted.

§ 3. Order of bouts: Round-robins and pools.

648 (a) In the absence of special regulations, the order of bouts in a round-robin (elimination or final) shall follow the international table (Art. 327), except as provided below:

4 Fencers (6 bouts)	5 Fencers (10 bouts)	6 Fencers (15 bouts)	11 Fencers (55 bouts)				12 Fencers (66 bouts)			
1-4	1-5	1-4	1-7	11-4	2-4	8-11	1-7	6-8	10-5	7-12
2-3	2-3	2-5	2-8	5-7	1-5	6-10	2-8	10-1	11-6	8-10
3-1	5-4	3-6	3-9	2-6	7-11	2-7	3-9	11-2	1-4	9-11
4-2	3-1	5-1	4-10	4-1	8-10	11-1	4-10	12-3	2-5	2-1
3-4	4-2	6-2	5-11	7-10	6-9	3-8	5-11	7-4	3-6	4-5
1-2	3-5	4-3	6-1	9-11	7-3	4-9	6-12	8-5	7-10	3-2
	1-4	1-6	2-3	3-5	10-1	10-5	8-1	9-6	8-11	8-7
	5-2	2-3	4-5	6-8	11-2	2-1	9-2	1-11	9-12	10-11
	4-3	5-4	8-9	1-9	4-8	4-3	10-3	2-12	5-1	9-8
	1-2	3-1	10-11	10-2	9-5	5-6	11-4	3-7	6-2	6-4
		4-2	7-6	11-3	1-3	7-8	12-5	4-8	4-3	1-3
		6-5	1-8	4-7	4-6	9-10	7-6	5-9	11-7	5-6
		1-2	9-2	5-8	5-2	6-11	1-9	6-10	10-9	12-10
		4-6	3-10	3-6	9-7		2-10	12-1	12-8	7-9
		3-5					3-11	7-2	1-6	11-12
							4-12	8-3	2-4	
							5-7	9-4	3-5	

649 (b) The provisions of the international rules in Articles 324 and 325 shall be applicable to the competitor's place on the strip and to situations involving clubmates.

650 (c) When for any reason it is desired to hold large round-robins on two or more strips, it is preferable to organize the competition as follows:

Round-robin of 12 fencers on 2 strips

1. Make 4 groups of 3 fencers each (1, 2, 3 in A; 4, 5, 6 in B; 7, 8, 9 in C; 10, 11, 12 in D).

2. Fence first round as two round-robins of 6 fencers each: Groups A and B on strip I; groups C and D on strip II.

3. Second round: fence group A vs. group C on strip I, and group B vs. group D on strip II, using order of bouts for teams of 3 fencers (Art. 683).

4. Third round: fence group A vs. group D on strip I, and group B vs. group C on strip II, using team order of bouts.

5. Assemble results of the three rounds on master score sheet.

Round-robin of 12 fencers on 3 strips

1. Make 6 groups of 2 fencers each (A, B, C, D, E, F).

2. Fence first round as three round-robins of 4 fencers each, taking groups A and D on strip I, B and E on strip II, C and F on strip III.

3. Fence second to fifth rounds inclusive as "team matches," using the order of bouts for six teams on five strips (Art. 694).

4. Assemble results of the five rounds on master score sheet.

Round-robin of 13 to 18 fencers on 3 strips

1. Make 6 groups of 2 or 3 fencers each, as above.

2. Proceed as in round-robin of 12 fencers, except that first round consists of round-robins of 4, 5, or 6 fencers depending on whether the groups are of 2 or 3 fencers each, and that the remaining rounds will pair groups of 2 each, 2 vs. 3, or 3 vs. 3.

Round-robin of 16 to 24 fencers on 4 strips

Make 8 groups of 2 or 3 fencers each, and proceed as above, using order of bouts for team competitions of 8 teams on 4 strips (Art. 694).

Larger round-robins

Round-robins of 20 to 30 fencers on 5 strips may be held, by application of foregoing principles, by using table in Art. 694 for 10 teams on 5 strips.

Round-robins of 24 to 36 fencers on 6 strips may be held by using table for 12 teams on 6 strips.

Round-robins of 26 to 39 fencers on 6 strips may be held by using table for 13 teams on 6 strips.

§ 4. Qualification in pool competitions.

(a) In all competitions organized in a pool basis, the minimum number of contestants in each elimination pool should be six, the minimum number of qualifiers should be two from each pool, and the final should consist of at least six fencers. The Bout Committee, however, may modify the pattern of competition as circumstances demand.

(b) In all major competitions, the number of qualifiers from each elimination pool should be at least one-third of the contestants in the pool, and preferably one-half.

(c) In epee competitions held on the basis of one-touch bouts, the minimum number of contestants in each elimination pool should be eight, of whom one-half should qualify for the next round. If large pools are not feasible, the same result may be obtained by fencing the round-robin two or three times, so that each contestant fences two or three one-touch bouts with each opponent in the pool.

(d) In any elimination pool from which only two fencers qualify for the next round, if three fencers tie with only one defeat each (having beaten one another), all three shall be advanced to the next round without counting touches or a fence-off.

(e) In the event that two or more fencers tie in bout victories for the last qualifying place, the tie shall be resolved by counting touches received (and, if necessary, touches scored) in the manner provided by the international rules for determining the final standing of competitors in a final round. (Art. 332.)

(f) However, the international rules requiring a fence-off in the case of ties for qualification (Art. 331) shall be followed in all rounds of the national championships, including both the divisional qualifying competitions and the national championship tournament, and in other major competitions when announcement to that effect is made by the Bout Committee before the start of the competition.

Art. 651

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Art. 657 (d) Alternate qualifiers are not permitted unless announcement to that effect has been made in advance (as for example, in the case of qualifiers for the national championship tournament). Therefore, when a fencer withdraws after having completed all his bouts in a pool, and has qualified, the withdrawal shall be deemed to have taken place in the next round.

§ 5. Fence-offs and final standings.

658 (a) The international rules governing fence-offs and final standings (Art. 331-335 inclusive) shall generally be applicable to A.F.L.A. competitions, except as provided above for the elimination rounds, and as provided below with respect to fence-offs involving three competitors.

659 (b) In fence-offs involving three competitors, the order of bouts shall be as follows:

1. For first place in the final, the pairing for the first bout between A and B shall be determined by club or divisional affiliation, or by lot; the second-bout pairing will match the loser of the first bout against C, so that if the loser is again defeated the final bout will be the climax of the competition.

2. If the fence-off is during an elimination round, and two of the three competitors may qualify, the same order as in the preceding paragraph shall be followed, since the third bout may become unnecessary.

3. If the fence-off is during an elimination round, and only one of the three competitors may qualify, then the winner of the first bout should fence the third contestant in the second bout, since the third bout is unnecessary if the winner is again victorious.

§ 6. Order of bouts: Direct elimination.

660 (a) The international master plan for direct elimination (Art. 365) shall govern competitions in the United States.

661 (b) The Bout Committee shall grant as many byes as may be necessary to insure a final of two fencers. To determine the number of first-round byes, the number of fencers desired in the second round should be multiplied by two; then from this total the number of fencers entered in the competition should be deducted; the difference is the number of byes to be given.

662 (c) Ranking Fencers are granted byes as a matter of right in the order of their rank. If additional byes are required, or if no Ranking Fencers are competing, they shall be granted in the order of seeded strength.

663 (d) As in competitions organized on a pool basis, the principle of the seeded draw in direct elimination competitions shall yield to the principle of separating clubmates as far as possible in the first round.

§ 7. Qualification and final standing: Direct elimination.

664 (a) In competitions organized partly on the pool system and partly on the system of direct elimination, the international rules (Art. 360) shall apply, except that fence-offs for qualification from elimination pools shall not be required *unless* (1) there is a tie in victories, touches received, and touches scored, or (2) the competition is a national championship, or (3) the fence-off requirement has been announced in advance.

665 (b) The final standings of competitors shall be determined according to the international rules (Art. 364), except that no fence-offs for places below 4th shall be held unless announced in advance of the competition.

§ 8. Withdrawals.

666 (a) The international rules governing withdrawals from a bout or pool already begun (Art. 336-352) shall be applicable to major competitions whenever the time schedule permits. However, the Bout Committee has the authority to use an alterna-

tive procedure in the competitions of lower category, and also whenever in major competitions, *in its opinion*, the application of the international rules would cause undue delay in the time schedule, or would involve a possible abuse of the spirit of such rules, as for example, when the withdrawal or withdrawals are purposely designed to affect the result of the pool to the detriment of one or more competitors. In such cases, the Bout Committee shall choose, among the following alternative procedures, the one which will least disturb the relative standing of the remaining fencers in the pool:

1. The bouts actually fenced by the withdrawing contestant shall be annulled, and the result of the pool shall be computed only on the basis of the round-robin among the remaining fencers in the pool. This procedure should not be followed, however, if the withdrawing contestant or contestants are entitled to qualification or placement, on the basis of actual victories scored as provided in the international rules.

2. The unfenced bouts of the withdrawing contestant shall be defaulted, and shall be scored as victories for the appropriate opponents in the pool, exactly as if such opponents had won the bouts in play without receiving a single touch.

(b) The first alternative procedure is mandatory whenever the withdrawing fencer or fencers have lost all their bouts prior to the withdrawal (Art. 340) and to cases where an ineligible fencer has competed.

(c) If the second alternative procedure is followed, and two or more fencers tie in bout victories for qualification or placement, the tie cannot be resolved by counting touches but must be fenced off.

(d) When a contestant withdraws from a competition for reasons which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, are not beyond his control, he shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and in addition he shall be subject to such disciplinary penalties (including permanent suspension) as the appropriate Executive Committee or the national Board of Governors in their discretion see fit to impose.

E. — TEAM COMPETITIONS

§ 1. Number of teams.

(a) For any team competition, the minimum number of actually contesting teams shall be three, except when otherwise ruled in advance by the proper governing body.

(b) There shall be no limitation on the number of team entries from a club unless a specific limit is fixed by the appropriate Executive Committee or the Board of Governors. Members of two or more teams representing the same organization may not be interchanged during a competition.

§ 2. Composite teams.

(a) In any competition, composite teams formed by unattached fencers, or by unattached fencers and fencers from one or more clubs, may be entered. However, no fencer (other than a Veteran fencing on a team composed entirely of Veterans) may fence on a composite team in any event in which his club is formally represented.

(b) Composite teams shall be so declared at the time of making entry for an event. They shall adopt a sufficiently descriptive name and furnish guarantee for the safe custody of any trophy which may be won.

(c) The Bout Committee shall refuse the entry of any composite team when, in its judgment, these conditions have not been complied with in every respect, or if such entry might be prejudicial to the best interests of fencing.

(d) Fencing on a composite team shall not render a fencer ineligible again to represent his own club during the same fencing season.

Art. 676 § 3. Team membership.

(a) Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, teams in A.F.L.A. competitions shall consist of four members, any three of whom may compete in a match (or in the regular rounds), and the fourth member being an alternate.

677 (b) The names of the individual fencers on a team need not be formally filed at the time the team entry is made, but for purposes of the seeded draw should be in the hands of the Bout Committee before the plan of competition is drawn up. For the national championship tournament this information should reach the Chairman of the National Bout Committee at least one week before the date set for the opening of the tournament.

678 (c) Every individual whose name is submitted as a member of a team shall by participating in the competition personally certify his eligibility to compete.

679 (d) Each team shall certify a team captain to the Bout Committee, and he shall be the only official spokesman for the team.

680 (e) The captain of each team may, prior to each match, alter the composition of his team by using any three of the four members entered as a team, and the order in which the team members are to fence. Substitutions may be made between matches but not during a match, except as permitted under Art. 313 of the international rules.

681 (f) The line-up of each team for each match, and the order in which the individual members are to fence, shall be submitted in writing by the captain to the Bout Committee, and this information shall be confidential until the opposing team has submitted its line-up and order.

682 § 4. Team matches: order of bouts.

(a) Unless otherwise announced in advance, team events in one weapon shall consist of matches between teams, each team considered as an entity. Each member of a team shall meet every other member of the opposing team according to a pre-arranged order, with the fencer first called taking his place on the strip at the right of the President of the Jury, except when the bout is between a left-handed and a right-handed fencer. The provisions of the international rules shall apply (Art. 294-297, 300, 302-311).

683 (b) The official order of bouts shall be as follows:

TEAMS OF THREE		TEAMS OF FOUR		TEAMS OF FIVE		
Bout		Bout	Bout	Bout	Bout	Bout
1: A-1 vs. B-1		1: A-1 vs. B-1	9: B-3 vs. A-1	1: A-1 vs. B-1	9: A-4 vs. B-5	18: B-1 vs. A-3
2: B-2 vs. A-2		2: B-2 vs. A-2	10: A-2 vs. B-4	2: B-2 vs. A-2	10: B-1 vs. A-5	19: A-4 vs. B-2
3: A-3 vs. B-3		3: A-3 vs. B-3	11: B-1 vs. A-3	3: A-3 vs. B-3	11: A-1 vs. B-3	20: B-3 vs. A-5
4: B-2 vs. A-1		4: B-4 vs. A-4	12: A-4 vs. B-2	4: B-4 vs. A-4	12: B-4 vs. A-2	21: A-1 vs. B-5
5: A-2 vs. B-3		5: A-1 vs. B-2	13: B-4 vs. A-1	5: A-5 vs. B-5	13: A-3 vs. B-5	22: B-1 vs. A-2
6: B-1 vs. A-3		6: B-3 vs. A-2	14: A-2 vs. B-1	6: B-2 vs. A-1	14: B-1 vs. A-4	23: A-3 vs. B-2
7: B-3 vs. A-1		7: A-3 vs. B-4	15: B-2 vs. A-3	7: A-2 vs. B-3	15: A-5 vs. B-2	24: B-3 vs. A-4
8: A-2 vs. B-1		8: B-1 vs. A-4	16: A-4 vs. B-3	8: B-4 vs. A-3	16: B-4 vs. A-1	25: A-5 vs. B-4
9: A-3 vs. B-2					17: A-2 vs. B-5	

684 (c) Official three-weapon team matches shall consist of one bout in each weapon. The order of weapons shall be foil, epee, sabre, and all bouts shall be for five touches unless otherwise provided in advance. No member of a team may fence in more than one weapon during the competition.

685 § 5. Form of competition.

(a) When four or more teams are entered, an official competition may be organized on an elimination or round-robin basis throughout, or partly on an elimination basis and partly on a round-robin basis. In the final round, consisting of two,

three, or four teams, the surviving teams shall fence each other to determine the winner.

(b) Special team events may also be conducted on an individual pool basis, so that each team will designate a representative for each pool and the team standings will be determined by the aggregate of bouts won by the team members in the individual pools. In the event of a tie for first place, the teams concerned shall have equal standing unless provision is made in advance for resolving such ties by a three-bout fence-off or by a count of touches. If the tie is for places other than first, it shall be resolved by a count of touches received, and if necessary by a count of touches scored, by the teams concerned.

§ 6. Direct elimination.

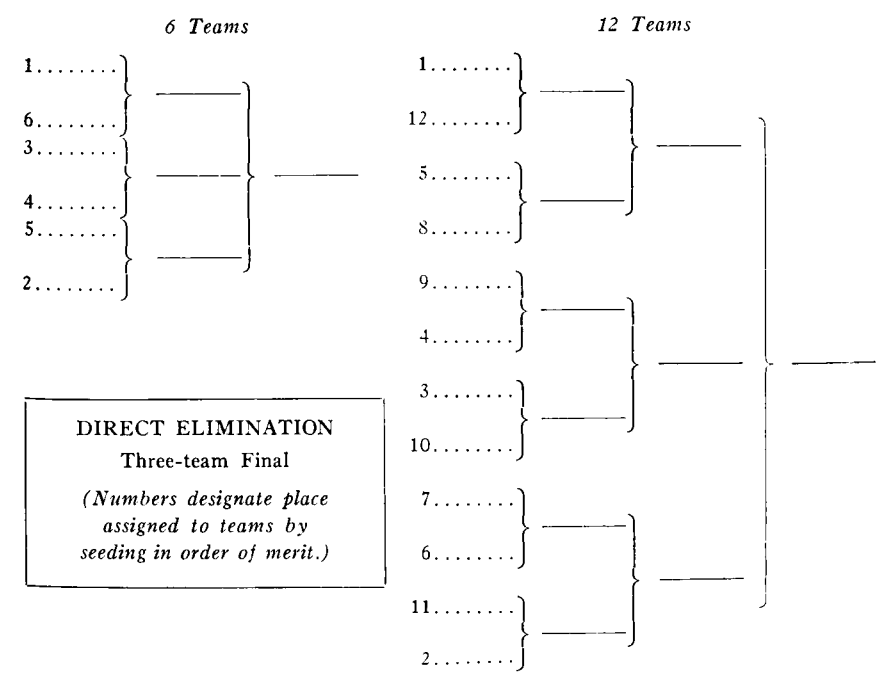
(a) In direct elimination, the team that wins a match as provided in the international rules (Art. 304-306) is entitled to progress to the next round, and the losing team drops out. Therefore, a match may be concluded as soon as one team has won a majority of the maximum number of bouts.

(b) The pairing of teams shall be governed by the principle of the seeded draw.

(c) In elimination events the Bout Committee is empowered to grant a sufficient number of byes in the first round to insure a two-team final. The Bout Committee is also empowered to grant such other byes as in its opinion may be necessary, but no team shall receive more than one bye during a competition and no team may be given a bye into a final round of less than four teams.

(d) The master plan for direct-elimination team competitions, where a final of two (or four) teams is desired, shall follow the master plan provided by the international rules for individual events (Art. 365).

(e) Where a final of three teams is desired (the three teams in the final fencing a round-robin), the master plan shall be as follows:



Art. 686

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Art. § 7. Round-robins and pools.

692 (a) When a round-robin or pool of four teams is held, the two top-seeded teams shall fence against the two lower-ranking teams in the first matches; then the two winners shall fence the two losers; and the remaining two matches shall be fenced only if necessary.

693 (b) For qualification and final standings, the international rules shall apply (Art. 307-311).

694 (c) When a round-robin or pool of five or more teams is held, it is desirable to use as many strips as possible in order to avoid long delays. Sample plans are given in the following tables:

ORGANIZATION TABLES

I. Five teams on two strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; strips A, B)

Round	Strip A	Strip B	Bye
(1)	1-3	2-5	4
(2)	4-1	5-3	2
(3)	5-4	3-2	1
(4)	1-5	2-4	3
(5)	1-2	4-3	5

II. Six teams on three strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; strips A, B, C)

Round	Strip A	Strip B	Strip C
(1)	1-4	2-5	6-3
(2)	5-1	3-2	4-6
(3)	1-3	2-6	5-4
(4)	6-1	4-2	3-5
(5)	1-2	4-3	6-5

III. Seven teams on three strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; strips A, B, C)

Round	A	B	C	Bye
(1)	1-7	2-6	3-5	4
(2)	3-1	7-2	5-4	6
(3)	1-4	6-7	2-5	3
(4)	4-6	3-2	7-5	1
(5)	4-7	6-3	5-1	2
(6)	2-4	3-7	1-6	5
(7)	1-2	4-3	5-6	7

IV. Eight teams on four strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; strips A, B, C, D)

Round	A	B	C	D
(1)	1-5	2-6	3-7	4-8
(2)	6-1	7-2	8-3	5-4
(3)	1-7	2-8	3-5	4-6
(4)	8-1	5-2	6-3	7-4
(5)	1-4	8-5	2-3	6-7
(6)	3-1	6-8	4-2	7-5
(7)	1-2	7-8	3-4	5-6

V. Nine teams on four strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; strips A, B, C, D)

Round	A	B	C	D	Bye
(1)	1-6	2-7	3-8	9-5	4
(2)	7-1	4-2	5-3	8-9	6
(3)	9-7	4-6	1-3	2-8	5
(4)	6-7	9-4	5-1	3-2	8
(5)	8-6	2-9	4-5	7-3	1
(6)	5-8	6-2	1-4	3-9	7
(7)	7-5	3-6	4-8	9-1	2
(8)	5-2	6-9	7-4	1-8	3
(9)	1-2	5-6	4-3	8-7	9

VI. Ten teams on five strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; strips A, B, C, D, E)

Round	A	B	C	D	E
(1)	1-6	2-7	3-8	4-10	5-9
(2)	7-1	4-2	8-9	10-6	3-5
(3)	9-7	6-4	2-8	10-5	1-3
(4)	7-6	9-4	8-10	5-1	3-2
(5)	6-8	2-9	1-10	5-4	7-3
(6)	2-6	9-3	4-1	8-5	10-7
(7)	10-2	6-3	1-9	4-8	7-5
(8)	5-2	3-10	9-6	8-1	7-4
(9)	6-5	4-3	10-9	2-1	8-7

VII. Eleven teams on five strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; strips A, B, C, D, E)

Round	A	B	C	D	E	Bye
(1)	1-7	2-8	9-3	4-10	5-11	6
(2)	1-5	2-4	6-3	8-10	7-11	9
(3)	1-6	11-4	3-2	8-9	10-7	5
(4)	6-9	11-2	5-3	4-8	10-1	7
(5)	8-6	9-11	7-5	1-4	3-10	2
(6)	3-8	6-11	2-7	4-9	10-5	1
(7)	1-8	7-6	9-2	5-4	11-10	3
(8)	3-1	6-10	9-7	2-5	11-8	4
(9)	1-9	6-2	7-4	8-5	3-11	10
(10)	11-1	2-10	4-6	5-9	7-3	8
(11)	1-2	9-10	3-4	6-5	8-7	11

VIII. Twelve teams on six strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; strips A, B, C, D, E, F)

Round	A	B	C	D	E	F
(1)	1-7	2-8	9-3	4-10	11-5	6-12
(2)	5-1	2-4	6-3	8-10	7-11	12-9
(3)	1-6	11-4	3-2	8-9	10-7	5-12
(4)	6-9	11-2	5-3	4-8	10-1	12-7
(5)	8-6	9-11	7-5	1-4	3-10	2-12
(6)	3-8	6-11	2-7	4-9	10-5	12-1
(7)	1-8	7-6	9-2	5-4	11-10	12-3
(8)	3-1	6-10	9-7	2-5	11-8	4-12
(9)	1-9	6-2	7-4	8-5	3-11	10-12
(10)	11-1	2-10	4-6	5-9	7-3	12-8
(11)	1-2	9-10	3-4	6-5	8-7	11-12

IX. Thirteen teams on six strips

(Teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; strips A, B, C, D, E, F)

Round	A	B	C	D	E	F	Bye
(1)	1-7	2-8	3-9	4-10	5-12	6-13	11
(2)	11-1	10-2	9-5	6-4	12-7	13-3	8
(3)	11-3	1-10	5-8	2-4	9-12	7-13	6
(4)	3-6	10-8	5-7	9-2	12-1	13-11	4
(5)	7-3	8-6	4-5	2-13	1-9	11-10	12
(6)	7-11	1-8	13-5	12-2	9-4	10-6	3
(7)	4-7	8-11	12-13	2-3	6-9	5-10	1
(8)	1-4	3-8	6-12	7-2	9-11	10-13	5
(9)	1-3	8-4	12-10	2-6	11-5	13-9	7
(10)	3-10	4-13	8-12	6-11	5-1	9-7	2
(11)	5-3	12-4	8-9	11-12	1-13	7-6	10
(12)	12-3	4-11	13-8	2-5	6-1	10-7	9
(13)	11-12	3-4	7-8	1-2	5-6	9-10	13

§ 8. Ineligible competitors: withdrawals.

(a) A team using an ineligible competitor shall forfeit the match or matches in which such member participated; and, in the event that the competition, or any part thereof, is re-fenced, the team and all its members shall be barred from participation.

(b) The international rules on withdrawal of competitors and teams (Art. 312-315) shall be applicable, except that the permission granted in Art. 313 for the use of substitutes shall not be applicable to the case where a team withdraws an ineligible competitor.

(c) When a team withdraws from a competition for some reason which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, is not beyond its control, the team and all the individual members thereof shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and shall in addition be liable to such disciplinary penalties as the proper governing body may see fit to impose.

CHAPTER IV — SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. — GENERAL REGULATIONS

§ 1. Definition.

(a) Sectional Championships shall be inter-divisional tournaments organized and conducted, under authority of the Board of Governors of the A.F.L.A., by sectional Executive Committees composed of the chairman or other representative of the Executive Committee of each division entitled to participate therein.

(b) The approved sectional championships (1957) are the Pacific Coast, South-west, Mid-West, and North Atlantic Championships.

§ 2. Date of championships.

(a) In principle, all sectional championships shall be scheduled in the spring of each year, at least one month prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(b) If for any reason a sectional championship is held three weeks or less before the opening of the national tournament, the rules governing national entries will cause the winners of the individual sectional events to lose the privilege of automatic qualification for the national tournament; and if such winners are otherwise eligible for the national tournament, their division will lose the right to move the first alternate into a regular qualifying position by reason of the national entry rules.

§ 3. Form of competition.

(a) All sectional championships shall be held strictly in accordance with the technical rules of fencing (Titles I, II, III and IV of these Rules).

(b) The plan of organization, qualification, and competition, shall be determined in the discretion of the sectional Executive Committee, subject only to the provision that suitable notice thereof shall be included in the announcement and schedule of events.

(c) The regulations which follow are typical of those heretofore in force for the sectional championships, but are subject to amendment by the appropriate Executive Committee as provided in the preceding paragraph.

B. — PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Eligible divisions.

The Pacific Coast Championships are open to all divisions of the A.F.L.A. whose territory lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

Art. 695
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Art. 706 § 2. Place of tournament.

(a) Each participating division is entitled to have the Pacific Coast Championship held within its territory according to an established system of rotation.

707 (b) A new division entering the Pacific Coast Championships for the first time is entitled upon request to have the tournament held within its territory during the year it enters. If no such request is made, the new division will be placed at the bottom of the rotation list and must await its regular turn.

708 (c) The tournament shall be held at the place or places chosen by the host division.

709 § 3. Program of tournament.

(a) The Pacific Coast Championships include individual and team competitions, as announced in the schedule of events.

710 (b) No Pacific Coast Championship shall be held in any scheduled event unless competitors from at least two divisions actually participate.

711 (c) The program of the tournament may include prize competitions, but no event shall be designated as a championship unless it conforms to the established rules governing championships (See Arts. 516, 537).

712 § 4. Qualifying competitions.

(a) Each participating division must hold qualifying competitions in each of the events to be contested at the Pacific Coast Championships.

713 (b) The qualifying competition may be identical with the divisional championship, but must be held during the fencing season of the Pacific Coast Championships.

714 (c) The number of qualifiers for individual events shall be limited to three from each division. One alternate may also be named. The defending individual Pacific Coast Champion in an Open event shall *in addition* be entitled to qualify without taking part in the qualifying competitions.

715 (d) Only one team in each team event may qualify from each division for the Pacific Coast Team Championships. All teams must qualify, including the defending team champions. All members of a team shall be members of the same club or division.

C.—SOUTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

716 § 1. Eligible divisions.

The Southwest Championships are open to all divisions of the A.F.L.A. within the State of Texas, and to any division in territory immediately contiguous thereto provided it requests and obtains the consent of the Southwest Executive Committee. Other neighboring divisions may be invited at the discretion of the sectional Executive Committee.

717 § 2. Place of tournament.

The Southwest Championships shall be held in the place chosen by the Executive Committee of the section.

718 § 3. Program of tournament.

(a) The program includes team and individual championship events as well as such prize competitions as are announced in the schedule of events.

719 (b) No Southwest Championship shall be held in any scheduled event unless competitors from at least two divisions actually participate.

D. — MID-WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Eligible divisions.

The Mid-West Championships are open to divisions included in the Mid-West area, defined as follows: That portion of the United States lying east of the Mississippi, north of the Ohio River, and west to the eastern border of the State of Ohio; provided, however, that any city, such as St. Louis, immediately contiguous to rivers of such borders shall be deemed included in it; and provided that any division lying in territory near to the aforesaid area may, at its own request and with the consent of the Mid-West Executive Committee, be included by the Board of Governors within that area. Other divisions and individuals may be invited to participate at the discretion of the sectional Executive Committee.

§ 2. Program of tournament.

(a) Mid-West Championships are ordinarily limited to Open individual events.

(b) Team scores for each division are computed on the basis of the bouts won by the two top-scoring fencers of each division in each round of each event, including both men and women.

(c) The time-table, number of qualifiers from each division, organization of events, and other pertinent regulations and information shall be announced in the schedule of events.

E. — NORTH ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Eligible divisions.

The North Atlantic Championships are open to all divisions east of the State of Ohio and north of the State of North Carolina; provided, however, that the New York Metropolitan Division shall be excluded, and that any other division lying in territory near to the aforesaid area may, at its own request and with the consent of the North Atlantic Executive Committee, be included by the Board of Governors in the North Atlantic area.

§ 2. Program of tournament.

The North Atlantic Championships are limited to Open individual events.

NOTE: Articles 726-730 are left open for future expansion of this chapter.

Art. 720

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CHAPTER V — NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

A. — GENERAL REGULATIONS

§ 1. Nature of tournament.

(a) Certain national championship events, to be announced annually in the schedule of events, both divisional and national, shall be held in two parts: *First*, a preliminary open *qualifying competition* (including one or more rounds), which shall be held in each division whenever possible for its A.F.L.A. members in good standing, and at a date and place selected by the Board of Governors for non-divisional members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing. *Second*, a subsequent *championship competition*, limited to duly qualified contestants, which shall be held at the date and place selected by the Board of Governors.

(b) At least four championship events—the men's individual open epee, foil, and sabre, and the women's individual open foil—shall be held in accordance with the preceding paragraph, and the championship competitions therein shall constitute the *national championship tournament*.

(c) Whenever possible, the four corresponding national team championships and the three-weapon team championship shall be held at the same time as part of the same national tournament.

§ 2. Date and place of tournament.

(a) The date of the national championship tournament shall be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in September of the preceding year. (It has been customary to schedule the tournament in the late spring or early summer, and most frequently in the month of June.)

(b) The national championship tournament shall be held in the city determined by the division or divisions to which the national championship tournament has been awarded by the Board of Governors.

(c) Bids for the national championship tournament shall be submitted to the Board of Governors by interested divisions at least eighteen months, and preferably two years in advance. Bids should include a full description of the physical facilities available and a plan for financing the necessary expenses of the tournament. Full details may be obtained from the Secretary of the League.

(d) The New York Metropolitan Division, under the terms of its charter, makes a standing bid for the national championship tournament, and will be awarded the tournament automatically if no other bids are received in time.

§ 3. Schedule of tournament.

(a) After the award of the national championship, the exact schedule of events will be prepared in consultation with the host division and will be published in the official organ of the A.F.L.A., *American Fencing*.

(b) In general, team events will precede individual events, but the provisions of the international rules (Art. 288-289) are not mandatory.

B. — ELIGIBILITY FOR TOURNAMENT

§ 1. Automatic qualifiers.

(a) The following members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to participate in the individual events of the national championship tournament without taking part in the qualifying competitions and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from the division or the non-divisional group to which they belong:

1. the finalists of the previous national individual championships in a particular weapon;

2. all former national champions in that weapon;

3. members of the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team selected not more than four years prior to the tournament, in the weapon fenced;

4. current sectional champions in their respective weapons;

5. fencers of veteran classification (aged 50 or over) who have been national championship medalists or members of a U.S. Olympic Fencing Team.

(b) The privilege of automatic qualification for the individual and team events of the national championship tournament may also be extended, at the discretion of the Board of Governors, to members of the armed forces stationed outside the continental limits of the United States and to visiting members of the F.I.E.

§ 2. Qualifying competitions.

(a) The divisional and non-divisional *qualifying competitions* shall be held at least one month prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(b) Under normal circumstances, only members of a division may compete in that division's qualifying competition. In exceptional cases, subject to specific approval by the Board of Governors, a member of the A.F.L.A. in good standing may be permitted to qualify from a division other than the one to which he belongs if he fulfills all of the following conditions: (1) that he was physically unable to compete in his qualifying competition, (2) that he had earned qualification from his division of the previous season, and (3) that he obtains the consent of the Executive Committee of the division from which he seeks to qualify. No individual who has for the same season unsuccessfully attempted to qualify in a divisional or non-divisional qualifying competition shall be permitted to qualify by any other method.

(c) Entries for the qualifying competitions shall be sent to the Chairman of the Bout Committee or other person designated for the purpose, according to the requirements announced in the divisional schedule of events; or to the Secretary of the League in the case of non-divisional members at least two weeks prior to the date of the non-divisional qualifying competition.

(d) All qualifying competitions, the conditions of competition, the number of touches required for victory in a bout, and the method of determining qualifiers shall conform strictly to the rules governing A.F.L.A. events. All individual qualifying competitions shall be held by the round-robin or pool method in one or more rounds as required by the number of contestants; and if more than one round is necessary, the number of qualifiers from each elimination round shall be at least three. Ties for qualification shall be fenced off as provided in the international rules, Art. 330-331.

(e) Subject to the limitations of the preceding paragraph, each division in its discretion may designate its divisional open championship in each weapon, team or individual, as the qualifying competition for the national championship tournament.

(f) In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition (team or individual) is less than the number of authorized qualifiers (see sections 3 and 4), the qualifying competition need not be held, and all entries shall be automatically qualified for the national championship tournament.

(g) Members of the armed forces of the United States not regularly assigned to duty within the territory of an established division may qualify as representatives of the "Armed Forces at Large." In the event that the number of entries from the "Armed Forces at Large" is more than four, the National Bout Com-

mittee may schedule a preliminary competition from which the individual qualifiers shall be determined as in the case of a division.

Art. 749 § 3. Individual qualifiers.

(a) In all qualifying competitions for the national individual championships, the number of qualifiers who will be eligible to compete in the championship tournament shall be determined (1) by the competitive membership (Life, Active, Collegiate, Student) in good standing in the division or non-divisional group at the time of the competition, and (2) by the number of fencers actually competing for qualification.

750 (b) The minimum number of qualifiers shall be three if there are 25 or less competitive members in good standing; four if there are 26 to 50 inclusive; five if there are 51 to 100 inclusive; six if there are 100 or more.

751 (c) Additional qualifiers shall be permitted if there are 10 or more actual competitors in the qualifying competition, as follows: 10-19 inclusive, one additional qualifier; 20 to 29 inclusive, two additional qualifiers; 30 to 39 inclusive, three additional qualifiers; 40 or more, four additional qualifiers.

752 (d) In other words, three shall be the minimum and ten the maximum that shall be allowed to qualify from any divisional or non-divisional competition, over and above the automatic qualifiers specified in section 1 above.

§ 4. Team qualifiers.

753 (a) Each division and the non-divisional group may qualify a maximum of four teams for each team event in the national championship tournament. (For any national championship team events not included in the national championship tournament, where no qualifying competition is required, there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered from each division or from the non-divisional group.)

754 (b) Teams may represent either a club or a division; but no club shall be permitted to qualify more than one team, even though the rules may permit a club to enter two teams in the competition.

755 (c) Divisional teams may be composite teams; but all composite teams shall be composed of members of the same division or the non-divisional group, and not more than one composite team may represent a division or the non-divisional group.

§ 5. Alternates.

756 (a) In addition to the regular qualifiers provided in the preceding rules, each division and the non-divisional group may determine a number of alternates who shall, in a specified order, become eligible for the national championship tournament in the event of the withdrawal of a regularly qualified individual or team.

757 (b) However, no individual may be an alternate unless he has actually participated in the qualifying competition.

§ 6. Certification of qualifiers and alternates.

758 (a) Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon, the Secretary of each division shall transmit to the Secretary of the League, by registered mail, the following information:

1. A certified list of all the individual fencers actually taking part in the qualifying competition;

2. A certified list of the competitors entitled to qualify from that division (including automatic qualifiers who are members of that division), in order of their estimated competitive strength;

3. A certified list of alternates in each weapon, in order of placement;

4. A certified list of the teams authorized to represent the division, and of any alternates.

(b) This information must reach the Secretary of the League at least three weeks prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament, and does not constitute the required entry for the championship competitions.

(c) The Secretary of the League shall check the certified lists against the list of members in good standing, and shall forward the list, with his endorsement or corrections, to the Chairman of the National Bout Committee for his guidance.

C. — ENTRIES

§ 1. Procedure for entries.

(a) Every qualifier (individual or team), including every automatic qualifier, who wishes to participate in the championship competitions of the national tournament must file an official entry with the Chairman of the National Bout Committee at least three weeks in advance of the date set for the opening of the tournament.

(b) Every entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee. Unless otherwise announced in the schedule of the tournament, the entry fee shall be \$5 per weapon for each individual, and \$10 per team event for each team.

(c) Every alternate who, by the withdrawal of a qualifier prior to the latter's official entry, becomes eligible to participate in the championship competitions, must file an entry in accordance with the preceding paragraphs, and the entry must be accompanied by a certification of the Secretary of his division as to the withdrawal of the qualifier and the eligibility of the alternate.

(d) The Chairman of the Bout Committee shall check the entries so received by him against the certified list of qualifiers and alternates which has the endorsement of the Secretary of the League, and shall draw the plan of the competitions on the basis that the number of valid entries so received from any division shall be the maximum number of contestants from that division.

(e) If, after the closing dates for entries, a duly entered team or individual competitor withdraws, an alternate may be substituted provided that the notice of withdrawal and replacement, properly authenticated by the Secretary of the division, shall be received by the Chairman of the National Bout Committee not later than one week prior to the date set for the opening of the national tournament.

§ 2. Composition of teams.

(a) When team competitions are included in the national championship tournament, a duly qualified and entered team representing a club or division need not limit its composition to those fencers who actually competed on that team in the qualifying competition.

(b) However, no fencer shall be permitted to represent a club or division in the team championship competition unless he was a bona fide member of that club or division at the time of the qualifying team competition.

D. — FORM OF COMPETITION

§ 1. First round.

(a) Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, the first round of the championship competitions, team and individual, shall be held by the pool method, but byes may be given without limitation of number at the discretion of the Bout Committee according to a formula of general application.

Art.
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(b) The seeded draw in the first round of the championship competition shall be governed, first by the national list of Ranking Fencers, and next according to the judgment of the National Bout Committee aided by the statements of estimated strength contained in the certifications filed by divisional secretaries pursuant to Art. 758 above. However, members of the same division shall insofar as possible be separated, in the same manner as required for members of the same club.

§ 2. Subsequent rounds.

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(a) Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, at least three fencers shall qualify from each elimination round in individual events (with ties for qualification being fenced off as provided in Art. 330-331), and the final round-robin shall consist of at least six fencers.

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(b) In the event that a "super-final" of only two fencers is scheduled, the championship shall be decided either on the basis of a ten-touch bout in men's events and an eight-touch bout for women (with a two-touch advantage required for victory), or on the basis of individual matches for two out of three bouts (5 touches in men's events, 4 touches for women).

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(c) If the schedule of events announces that the "final" of an individual championship is to be held by direct elimination, this shall be construed to mean that the top eight competitors will participate in the direct-elimination matches according to the usual rules.

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(d) In team events, after the first round, the competition may proceed, in the discretion of the Bout Committee, by the pool method or by direct elimination, or a combination of both, to produce a "final" of two, three, or four teams.

TITLE EIGHT : A.F.L.A. MANUAL

CHAPTER I — THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

A. — WHAT IS THE A.F.L.A.?

§ 1. Jurisdiction.

The Amateur Fencers League is the official governing body for amateur fencing in the United States and its exclusive jurisdiction is recognized by the Amateur Athletic Union, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Federation Internationale d'Escrime (F.I.E.).

§ 2. Relations with A.A.U.

The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, through articles of alliance (see sub-head E of this chapter), recognizes the individual winners of A.F.L.A. national championships as the amateur fencing champions of the United States. Only the fencing competitions organized by the A.F.L.A. are so recognized. In addition, the A.A.U. will respect and enforce all penalties of suspension and disqualification inflicted by the A.F.L.A.

§ 3. Relations with Olympic Committee.

The Amateur Fencers League of America is a member of the United States Olympic Association, the continuing Olympic organization between Olympiads, and works in close cooperation with the United States Olympic Committee in the selection and preparation of Olympic fencing teams to represent the United States. For reasons explained below every member of the United States Olympic fencing teams must be a member of the A.F.L.A.

§ 4. Relations with F.I.E.

The A.F.L.A. is the sole representative of United States amateur fencing in the Federation Internationale d'Escrime, the governing body for all official international amateur fencing competitions including the World's and Olympic Championships. Any U.S. amateur fencer wishing to participate in international contests must be accredited to the F.I.E., or to the host country or foreign club, as to amateur standing, qualification, etc., by the A.F.L.A.

§ 5. Relations with colleges.

The A.F.L.A. maintains close relations with the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (founded in 1894), the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association, and several regional intercollegiate associations whose respective jurisdiction over fencers in their member colleges is explicitly recognized. The collegiate bodies collaborate with the A.F.L.A. in the standardization of the technical rules governing fencing competitions throughout the United States. These rules, as a matter of long established policy, generally follow the rules of the F.I.E., which are the basis of official rules throughout the world.

§ 1. Foundation and leadership.

The Amateur Fencers League of America was founded in New York on April 22, 1891. Prior to that date fencing championships had been conducted by the A.A.U. The organizers elected Dr. Graeme M. Hammond as the first president, and he held that office from 1891 to 1925. Since then the average period of service of the President has been four years, and the office has been held successively by Col. Henry Breckinridge, F. Barnard O'Connor, Leon M. Schoonmaker, Harold Van Buskirk, John R. Huffman, Dernel Every, Miguel A. de Capriles, and Jose R. de Capriles. In September 1957, Donald S. Thompson of Cleveland, Ohio, will take office as the first A.F.L.A. President from outside the metropolitan New York area.

The important office of Secretary, which carries a major share of the administrative burdens of the national organization, has been held by W. Scott O'Connor, F. Barnard O'Connor, Leon M. Schoonmaker, J. Howard Hanway, Ervin S. Acel, Dernel Every, Warren A. Dow, and the present incumbent (1957), Ralph Goldstein.

The Amateur Fencers League of America is run by fencers for the benefit of fencers. All of its officers, local and national, perform their duties without remuneration or expense accounts, and often at considerable sacrifice of time and personal income.

§ 2. Geographical organization.

For many years after its foundation, the membership of the A.F.L.A. was heavily concentrated in the metropolitan New York area, but as early as the first year of its existence "divisions" were created to manage the local affairs of fencing groups in other parts of the country. The first divisions were established on March 20, 1892, in New England and Nebraska. New divisions have been created from time to time as required by the growth of fencing in the United States; and in 1956 the metropolitan New York group, which constituted the overwhelming majority of the "non-divisional" membership, was itself organized as a division. Early in 1957 there were 42 active divisions and 10 inactive divisions.

The active divisions were: Arizona, Border (Texas), Central Illinois, Colorado, Columbus (Ohio), Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Gulf Coast (Texas), Harrisburg (Pa.), Hudson-Berkshire (N.Y.-Mass.), Illinois, Inland Empire (Wash.-Idaho), Iowa, Kentucky, Long Island (N.Y.), Maryland, Metropolitan New York, Miami Valley (Ohio), Michigan, Mid-New York, Minnesota, Nebraska, New England, New Mexico, New Jersey, New Orleans (La.), North Carolina, Northern California, Northern Ohio, North Texas, Oregon, Philadelphia (Pa.), Seattle (Wash.), Southern California, St. Louis (Mo.), Tennessee, Washington (D.C.), Westchester (N.Y.), Western New York, and Wisconsin. The inactive divisions were: Alaska, Birmingham (Ala.), Hawaii, Pittsburg (Pa.), Rhode Island, Sacramento (Calif.), San Diego (Calif.), South Florida, Utah, and West Point (N.Y.). There is also a small non-divisional group of members which includes fencers who do not reside or fence within the territory assigned to a division.

A description of the method of organization and management of a division is contained in Chapter III of this Title.

§ 3. Government of the A.F.L.A.

The basis of organization of the A.F.L.A. is individual membership. The classes of membership are described in Title Seven (Art. 505-509) and in the Constitution and By-Laws which are part of this Chapter. The divisions enjoy a considerable degree of autonomy in the management of local affairs.

Non-administrative regional units, called sections, are created for the purpose of conducting annual regional championships among the divisions within a section. A national vice-president, elected from the section, is chairman of the sectional Executive Committee.

The Board of Governors, which is the final authority on all fencing questions in the United States, includes the national officers and representatives from all the divisions of the A.F.L.A. National officers are elected at the Annual Meeting of the national membership, which is held at the site of and during the national championship tournament.

§ 4. Organization of fencing competitions.

The national championships have been held most frequently in New York because of the large number of fencers in and near the metropolitan area. The national championship tournament was for the first time moved from New York City in 1939, when it was held in San Francisco; in 1951 it was held in Detroit; and in 1957 the tournament is scheduled for Milwaukee.

The first sectional championship was organized in the Pacific Coast, and has been held annually since 1925. The Mid-West Championship was first held in 1934; the All-Eastern (now discontinued) in 1939; the Southwest in 1950; and the North-Atlantic in 1955.

The divisions of the A.F.L.A. annually schedule over 400 competitions, some open to competitors of all classifications, and others restricted (see Art. 532-534). In addition, technical guidance and assistance are furnished to hundreds of high schools, colleges, clubs and local fencing leagues.

§ 5. Official publication: American Fencing.

In order to promote a better interchange of news and opinion among fencers throughout the United States, the A.F.L.A. in 1949 designated the magazine *American Fencing* as the official publication of the League. The magazine is distributed to the entire membership six times a year.

§ 6. Fencing masters and the A.F.L.A.

The traditionally close cooperation between amateur fencers and their fencing masters or coaches was formalized by the adoption of constitutional amendments in 1953 which created the Associate Membership, open to non-amateurs. Most of the active fencing coaches in the United States are Associate Members of the A.F.L.A. and enjoy full voting privileges.

§ 7. International record.

Under the leadership of the A.F.L.A., United States fencers have achieved considerable international prestige. Although for financial and geographical reasons it is not possible to send full delegations to international events frequently, United States fencing teams have competed with distinction in all the Olympic Games since 1904. That year, at St. Louis, the fencing events were in effect a dual meet between Cuba and the United States, but in later years practically all the strong fencing countries of the world were represented. To date (1957) the best U.S. individual performances in the Olympic Games have been: *In foil*, Joseph Levis, 2d in 1932; *in epee*, George C. Calnan, 3d in 1928, and Richard Pew, 4th in 1956; *in sabre*, George V. Worth, 5th in 1948, and John R. Huffman, 6th in 1932; *in women's foil*, Maria Cerra (Tishman), 4th in 1948, and Janice Lee York (Romary), 4th in 1952 and again in 1956. The best U.S. team performances have been: *In foil*, 3d place in 1920 and 1932; *in epee*, 3d place in 1932; *in sabre*, 3d place in 1948. The women's team event is not on the Olympic program.

The record of the United States in the first two Pan-American Games has established the supremacy of United States fencing in the Western Hemisphere. In 1951, in Buenos Aires, the United States won the foil and sabre team events, and placed second in the epee team championship. In the individuals, Dr. Tibor Nyilas won the sabre championship with George Worth second; Nathaniel Lubell was third in foil, and Edward Vebell third in epee; there were no U.S. entries in the women's competition. In 1955, in Mexico City, the United States won the sabre team event and placed second in the foil and epee team championships. Mrs. Maxine Mitchell won the women's title with Mrs. Eve Siegel third; Harold Goldsmith won the foil championship and Albert Axelrod was second; George Worth again was second in sabre with R. Richard Dyer third; and Sewall Shurtz was third in epee.

International matches have from time to time been scheduled with Canada, Cuba, England, Mexico, and Scotland, and qualified individuals have been authorized to represent the United States at World Championships and major European tournaments.

United States fencers are also in great demand as international judges and presidents of jury. Miguel de Capriles presided at the Olympic individual sabre final in 1936, and at the foil and sabre finals in 1952. Jose de Capriles presided at the Olympic individual foil final in 1952, and at all three of the men's individual finals in 1956. A single all-U.S. jury officiated throughout the sabre final in 1956. The latest official list of F.I.E. approved Presidents of Jury, in addition to the above, includes Tracy Jaeckel, Tibor Nyilas and George Worth. Several A.F.L.A. members have also been active in important committees of the F.I.E.

C. — CONSTITUTION OF THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
(As amended to August 9, 1956)

ARTICLE I

THE NAME

The name of the League shall be "The Amateur Fencers League of America".

ARTICLE II

THE OBJECTS

The objects of the League shall be:

(a) The encouragement of the sport and art of fencing in the United States of America, its territories and possessions.

(b) The defining of amateur status in respect to fencing and the formulation and enforcement of regulations relating thereto.

(c) The formulation and publication of rules for the management of fencing contests and exhibitions in the United States of America, its territories and possessions.

(d) The grouping of all amateur fencers within its territorial jurisdiction for the purpose of conducting annual local and national championships, and competitions preliminary thereto or designed to awaken and maintain interest in competitive fencing as well as in the art of fencing as a cultural pursuit and an exercise.

(e) The maintenance of relations with fencing associations and societies of foreign countries, and committees or other organizations interested in promoting international competitions and the advancement of the sport and art of fencing.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DEFINITION OF AN AMATEUR FENCER

Section 1. Membership in the League shall be limited to those citizens or residents of the United States of America, its territories and possessions, who are genuinely interested in the advancement of amateur fencing.

Membership shall be of six classes: Honorary, Collegiate, Student, Associate, and Life.

Honorary Membership shall be open to anyone who shall have rendered distinguished service to the cause of fencing. To become an Honorary Member of the League any candidate shall be elected by the Board of Governors of the League by the unanimous vote of those voting who must comprise at least two-thirds of the entire Board then entitled to vote. Honorary Membership shall have all the rights and privileges of Active and Collegiate Member but shall be exempt from the obligations of paying any initiation fee or dues.

Active Membership shall be open to all amateur fencers who have attained the age of 25, upon being elected to membership by the Board of Governors or admitted to membership pursuant to the terms of the By-Laws of the League and upon payment of the initiation fee and dues for the current year specified in the By-Laws.

Collegiate Membership shall be open to all amateur fencers who have attained the age of 19 but have not yet reached their 25th birthday, upon being elected to membership by the Board or admitted to membership pursuant to the terms of the By-Laws of the League and upon payment of the initiation fee and dues for the current year specified in the By-Laws.

All Active and Collegiate Members shall be entitled to participate in any competition held under the auspices of the League subject to such regulations and limitations as the Board may from time to time lay down with respect to particular categories or classes of members; except in the case of new members admitted to membership on or after February 1st of each year, who shall have neither voting rights nor the right to hold office during that year. Active and Collegiate Members shall be entitled to vote on all matters that may be voted upon by the League pursuant to this Constitution and the By-Laws and to hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed.

Membership shall not entitle any member to any share in the assets of the League except to the extent stipulated in any resolution adopted by a majority of all members of the League at a special Meeting called for the purpose of passing upon a proposal of dissolution of the League, without its being succeeded by any successor League, Association or Corporation. All rights and privileges of any member shall cease upon his or her death, resignation, expulsion or failure to pay dues.

Student Membership shall be open to all amateur fencers who have not yet attained the age of 19 upon being elected to membership by the Board of Governors or admitted to membership pursuant to the terms of the By-Laws of the League and upon payment of the initiation fee and dues for the current year specified in the By-Laws. Student Members shall be entitled to participate in any competitions held under the auspices of the League, to the same extent that any Active or Collegiate Member is so privileged, but shall not be entitled to any of the other rights and privileges of membership.

Associate Membership shall be open to any amateur or professional who is interested in the sport of amateur fencing. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active and Collegiate Members subject to the following limitations: (a) they shall not be entitled to compete in amateur competitions; (b) they shall not be eligible for the national elective offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Foreign Secretary, nor the divisional elective

offices of Chairman or Vice-Chairman; (c) such additional limitations as may be fixed in the By-Laws.

Life Membership shall consist of those qualified to be Active or Collegiate Members who shall pay to the League the Life Membership fee specified in the By-Laws. Life Membership shall have all the rights and privileges of Active and Collegiate Members but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues subsequent to the payment of the Life Membership fee.

Life Associate Membership shall consist of those qualified to be Associate Members who shall pay the Life Associate Membership fee specified in the By-Laws. They shall have all the rights and privileges of Associate Members but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues subsequent to the payment of the Life Associate Membership fee.

Section 2. An amateur fencer is one who has not accepted directly or indirectly any fee, gratuity, money or its equivalent as a consideration for the performance of any act or service arising from his knowledge or skill in fencing; and who is not and has not been a professional in any other branch of athletics. The above, however, shall not apply to writing, editing or publishing articles, magazines or books on fencing.

Members of the Armed Forces of the United States detailed, appointed or assigned as instructors of fencing are exempt from the provisions of this article when in the discharge of such official duty.

ARTICLE IV MANAGEMENT

Section 1. The management of the League shall be vested in a Board of Governors composed of (1) the President, (2) the Sectional Vice-Presidents, (3) the Secretary, (4) the Treasurer, (5) the Foreign Secretary, (6) the last three Presidents of the League, (7) the Chairman of each Division and (8) "Non-Divisional"* and "Additional" Governors of the number hereinafter specified.

The Governors, other than those who are members of the Board by virtue of their office or prior office as above provided, shall consist of the following:

(a) A number of Non-Divisional Governors to be fixed each year by dividing the number of non-divisional Life, Active, Collegiate and Associate Members, as of the date of the previous Annual Meeting, by 35 and adding one thereto. Where the number of Non-Divisional Governors so determined results in a fraction, the number to be elected and hold office shall be the nearest whole number.

(b) One Additional Governor for each division having on the League roster 50 or more Life, Active, Collegiate and Associate Members in good standing at the end of the preceding fiscal year (August 31). In the case of a division having more than 87 such members on such date, the division shall be entitled to more than one Additional Governor so that there shall be one Governor, including the Division Chairman, for every 35 such members in the division. Where the total number of Governors to which a division is so entitled results in a fraction, the number to be designated or elected and hold office shall be the nearest whole number.

In the case of Non-Divisional Governors and Additional Governors, the number to hold office shall be determined each year by the Secretary of the League by the 15th of January, the number so determined to be applicable to the Board of Governors.

The President, the Sectional Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer,

* See Article VI for definition of "Non-Divisional."

the Foreign Secretary and the Non-Divisional Governors shall be elected annually in the manner specified by the By-Laws of the League. The Divisional Chairman and Additional Governors, if any, of each division shall be elected or designated annually by each Division thereto entitled in the manner specified by the By-Laws of the League and of the Division.

In addition, there may be a Recording Secretary who may be appointed by the Board of Governors. The Recording Secretary shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Board but shall not be entitled to vote at any such meeting.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall have such powers and duties as may be specified in this Constitution and the By-Laws of the League, and in particular the Board shall have power to interpret and apply Section 2 of Article III of this Constitution and to grant reinstatement thereunder.

The Board of Governors by a two-thirds vote of the members voting shall have power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to, or expel any member whose conduct may be deemed detrimental to the welfare, interests or character of the League, always provided however that any action other than reprimand or suspension for a year or less may be taken only after the following conditions have been satisfied: (a) notice must be served upon the members of the Board and upon the member against whom the proposed action is to be taken, setting forth generally the character of the conduct forming the basis for the proposed action; and (b) if requested by the member to be disciplined or by three members of the Board, within ten days after the mailing of notice of the proposed action, a committee of not less than five members of the League must be appointed by the President to investigate the conduct charged against the member, said committee must give the member an opportunity to be heard in respect to the charge and, after completing its investigation, must file a report favoring the action proposed to be taken by the Board.

Where any member has been reprimanded or suspended for one year or less without such member having been afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Board of Governors, the member shall be entitled to demand, within 15 days after notice of the action by the Board, a hearing on such action; and any suspension so under appeal shall not be valid for more than 45 days from the date of receipt by the Secretary of the League of such demand.

Section 3. The officers of the League shall have such powers and duties as may be prescribed in the By-Laws of the League.

Section 4. The Board of Governors may in their discretion, and upon the same vote as is provided for the election of Honorary Members in Article III of this Constitution, elect an Honorary President, an Honorary Vice-President and/or an Honorary Secretary-Treasurer. Any such honorary officer shall be elected for life and shall be entitled to all the privileges of an Honorary Member and to attend all meetings of the Board of Governors but shall not be entitled to vote as a member of the Board.

Section 5. In addition to the officers provided for in Sections 1 and 4 of this Article IV, the Board of Governors may in their discretion elect additional Vice-Presidents (not more than two in number) for such purposes and term of office not exceeding one year, and with such duties as the Board may determine. Such additional officers shall be designated Special Vice-Presidents and they shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Board but shall not be entitled as such to vote at the meetings.

ARTICLE V

DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS

Section 1. In order to facilitate the development of fencing in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, the Board of Governors may, upon application in conformance with the By-Laws, create administrative units to be known as Divisions. Such divisions shall be created by a charter designating the territorial limits of jurisdiction and setting forth such powers as the Board may prescribe and reserving to the Board the right and power to rescind or amend such charter at its discretion or when the total number of Life, Active and Collegiate Members in the division has fallen below ten.

Membership in a division shall be limited to persons eligible for membership in the League who reside in, or belong to a fencing club located within the territorial limits of the Division.

Section 2. In order to encourage annual inter-divisional competitions throughout the United States of America, its territories and possessions, the Board of Governors is empowered to create non-administrative units to be known as Sections. Such sections shall encompass large areas whose geographical limits shall be fixed and recorded by the Board. All divisions lying within the area covered by the section shall be members of the section and shall support the annual Sectional Championships as provided in the By-Laws of the League.

Section 3. Subject to the directives and limitations contained in this Constitution and the By-Laws of the League, each division and section is empowered to draft the By-Laws under which its respective functions shall be carried out.

ARTICLE VI

THE NON-DIVISIONAL GROUP

Section 1. All members of the League who are not eligible, or do not apply for membership in a division shall be classified as Non-Divisional Members.

Section 2. The Non-Divisional Group shall be administered by the officers of the League and the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed in writing at any Annual Meeting and be acted upon at the next Annual Meeting, or the Board of Governors may at any time call a Special Meeting the League for the purpose of proposing amendments to this Constitution, and in such case amendments so proposed to and approved by Such Special Meeting may be acted upon at the next succeeding Annual Meeting, always provided, however, that such Special Meeting be called to meet on a date not less than sixty days prior to the next succeeding Annual Meeting and that the notice calling such Special Meeting set forth the general tenor of the amendment or amendments to be proposed to and approved by such Special Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

TAKING EFFECT OF REVISION

This Constitution, as well as any By-Laws adopted at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall take effect sixty days after its adoption at the Annual Meeting of the League held in New York City on June 10, 1956. Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws so adopted shall be mailed to every Division of the

League within thirty days after the Annual Meeting and notice to that effect shall be given to all members. All members of the League who shall not have tendered a resignation prior to the effective date of this Constitution shall be deemed to have accepted its provisions and to have waived any right they may have had theretofore pursuant to the Constitution in effect prior to the taking effect of this Constitution.

D. — BY-LAWS OF THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

CHAPTER I

ELECTION AND ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Candidates for Active, Collegiate, Student or Associate Membership shall be admitted to the League by election of the Board of Governors; always provided, however, that the Secretary of the League or of any division may admit any candidate to provisional membership, with all the privileges of the class of membership to which the candidate is provisionally admitted, by receiving a signed application for membership endorsed by two members of the Board of Governors. Such provisional enrollment shall be effective until the candidacy of the provisional member shall be acted upon by the Board at its meeting next succeeding the enrollment (in case of members admitted provisionally by the Secretary of the League) or the meeting next succeeding the receipt of notice by the Secretary of the League that provisional enrollment has been granted by the secretary of a division.

CHAPTER II

FEES, DUES AND ARREARS

Section 1. The schedule of League dues and fees and the regulations pertaining thereto shall be as follows:

(a) The annual League (national) dues for all Active Members shall be \$3.00, for all Collegiate and Associate Members \$2.00, and for all Student Members \$1.00 payable, in the case of non-divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League and, in case of divisional members, to the divisional Secretary to be paid over by him to the Secretary of the League.

(b) The annual Sectional dues for Active, and Collegiate Members shall be \$1.00 payable, in the case of non-divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League and, in the case of divisional members, to the divisional Secretary. Where a division is a member of a Section, the secretary of the division shall pay over to the appropriate section all Sectional dues received. Where the division is not a member of any specified section, the Sectional dues shall be retained by the division.

(c) The annual Non-Divisional and Divisional dues for all Active Members shall be \$2.00, and for all Collegiate, Student and Associate Members \$1.00 payable, in the case of non-divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League and, in the case of divisional members, to the divisional Secretary or Treasurer for the purposes of the division. Annual non-divisional dues may be waived in whole or in part by the Board of Governors, and divisional dues by the Executive Committee of the division for all members of that division.

(d) All dues payable in accordance with sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) above shall be payable on application for membership and thereafter on or before September 1.

(e) The Initiation fee for Active, Collegiate, Student and Associate Members shall be \$1.00 payable on application for membership to the Secretary of the League, in the case of non-divisional members, and, in the case of divisional members, to the divisional Secretary or Treasurer for the purposes of the division.

(f) The Life Membership fee shall be \$100.00 except that, where the applicant has been a member of the League in good standing for ten or more consecutive years, the Life Membership fee shall be \$50.00. Where the Life Member is a member of a division, one-half of this fee shall be paid over to the Secretary of the League and one-half shall be retained by the division.

(g) The Life Associate Membership fee shall be \$60.00 except, that where the applicant has been a member of the League in good standing for ten or more consecutive years, the Life Associate Membership fee shall be \$30.00. Where the Life Associate Member is a member of a division, one half of this fee shall be paid over to the Secretary of the League and one half shall be retained by the division.

(h) All dues and initiation fees paid to the Secretary of the League shall be recorded by him and then turned over to the Treasurer for general League purposes.

Section 2. A member in arrears for dues shall not have a vote at meetings, shall not hold office in the League, and shall not be eligible to enter competitions under the auspices of the League.

Section 3. Any member in arrears for dues shall be dropped from the membership roster of the League after being in default two years and shall be eligible for membership again only upon payment of the initiation fee then prescribed in the By-Laws of the League.

CHAPTER III

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the League shall be convened in the same city as and during the national championship tournament, at a date and time fixed by the President of the League.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the League may be called by the Board of Governors at a time and place of which there shall be at least 30 days' notice. Business not specified in the notice of any such meeting shall not be acted upon.

Section 3. At the Annual Meeting there shall be elected a Nominating Committee of five voting members of the League which shall nominate candidates for the offices of President, Sectional Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Foreign Secretary to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting. A motion to close nominations for members of the Nominating Committee shall not be in order until nominations have been made of members of the League who are members of at least four different clubs, groups or divisions. This Committee shall file its nominations with the Secretary of the League on or before February first next ensuing; and the Secretary shall, on or before March first thereafter, mail to each member of the League a copy of the nominations filed by the Nominating Committee, or such notice shall be published in the official publication of the League within the prescribed time. The Sectional Vice-Presidents shall be nominated one each from the established Sections of the League and shall be appropriately designated in the nominations.

Section 4. Additional nominations may be made on written petition of not less than ten voting members of the League provided such petition is presented to the Secretary of the League by April first. No candidates except those nominated pursuant to the terms of Section 3 and this Section 4 shall be acted upon at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. If no additional nominations for an office are made, the Secretary of the League shall cast at the Annual Meeting a unanimous ballot for the candi-

date nominated for such office by the Nominating Committee. Where additional nominations have been made for any office, voting on the candidates for such office shall be by voting members only, on ballots prepared by the Secretary and mailed to all voting members as provided in Chapter V of these By-Laws. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted in a contested election.

(a) The ballot shall be marked by putting a cross or other clear indication of choice opposite the name of the candidate for whom the voter desires to vote.

(b) The ballot shall be sealed in the envelope provided; the envelope shall be signed by the voter and by the divisional secretary in the case of divisional members, or the League Secretary in the case of other members, attesting that the voter is a voting member of the League in good standing.

(c) The envelopes so received are to be opened by the tellers only after the polls for election of officers are declared open at the Annual Meeting of the League.

Section 6. The officers elected shall take office as of the next ensuing Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and shall hold office until the following Annual Meeting of the Board or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 7. At any meeting of the League a quorum shall consist, unless specifically otherwise provided for particular purposes or meetings, of 25 members, present in person or by proxy, and all business before the meeting other than elections may be voted on in person or by proxy, and a majority vote of those voting shall rule.

Section 8. Vacancies in the offices of President, Sectional Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer or Foreign Secretary, occurring between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Governors.

CHAPTER IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the A.F.L.A. and of the Board of Governors, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office.

Section 2. The Sectional Vice-Presidents in order of their seniority (or if of equal service, then by drawing lots), in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties of the President.

Section 3. The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence of the League (other than correspondence pertaining to the activities of the other elected officers which will be conducted by such officers and periodically reported to the Secretary to be incorporated in the records of the Secretary), keep a record of all meetings of the League and of the Board of Governors, issue notices to members of all meetings of the League, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by the Constitution, the By-Laws or the Board of Governors. If the Board appoints a Recording Secretary, the Secretary shall prescribe his duties and supervise his activities.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the League; shall receive all moneys, fees, dues, etc.; shall pay all bills approved by the Board of Governors; and shall preserve vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall, at the Annual Meeting, submit a report, audited by a committee of the Board of Governors, of the financial transactions of the preceding fiscal year. The Treasurer shall keep all funds of the League in such account or accounts, each subject to withdrawals upon such signature or signatures, as the Board of Governors may from time to time prescribe.

Section 5. The Foreign Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence of the League addressed to representatives or officers of foreign or international fencing federations or associations; shall record all activities of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime and make periodic reports thereon to the Board of Governors; shall obtain and issue F.I.E. licenses in the number and for the members specified by the Board; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the By-Laws or the Board of Governors.

Section 6. Before exercising their offices the Secretary and the Treasurer shall each file such bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the Board of Governors may approve.

CHAPTER V

NOTICES AND MAILINGS OF BALLOTS

Section 1. Any notices or ballots shall be deemed validly given or delivered if mailed to a member at the address last designated by such member to the Secretary of the League or, failing such designation, to the member at the address of such member furnished by the secretary of his or her division.

Section 2. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all voting members of the League by the Secretary, which notice shall be mailed or published in the official publication of the League on or before April 15 prior to such meeting and shall contain a statement of the name or names of the officer or officers to be elected by unanimous ballot, if any, and otherwise a reference to the candidates to be voted on at the meeting. Such notice shall include or be accompanied by the text of any amendment to the Constitution or the By-Laws to be acted upon at such Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Where any officer is to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, ballots for the candidates and return envelopes shall be mailed to all voting members on or before April 15 prior to such meeting.

CHAPTER VI

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1. The Board of Governors shall be vested with full powers of management of the League subject to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. At any meeting of the Board of Governors a quorum shall be seven members. On failure of a quorum a lesser number shall have power to adjourn to a given time and place.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors shall be convened, upon not less than five days' notice, during the month of September.

Section 4. Special Meetings of the Board of Governors may, and upon written request of three or more members must, be called by the President on 10 days' notice. All notices shall state the object of the meeting, and business not mentioned therein may not be acted on at any Special Meeting, except that appropriations shall be in order at any meeting of the Board without notice.

Section 5. In the interval between two Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors any action that might be lawfully taken at a Special Meeting of the Board may be so taken by mail or telegraph vote, in the manner and to the extent provided in these By-Laws.

Section 6. The Board of Governors shall have power to constitute an Executive Committee composed of not less than four members, which Committee shall include four of the elected officers of the League. Such Executive Committee, if

constituted by the Board, shall have such powers as the Board may by resolution prescribe; provided, however, that the power so delegated shall be limited to the power to take action until the next meeting of the Board of Governors, and in no event beyond a period of three months from the date of taking action, all action taken in the months of June, July and August to be deemed for this purpose to have been taken on August 31st.

Section 7. The Board of Governors may appoint a Recording Secretary to serve without vote until the subsequent Annual Meeting of the Board and to perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Board, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 8. The Board of Governors shall have power to formulate, establish, and publish the rules governing all amateur fencing competitions and all exhibitions in which an amateur member of the League shall participate, and in the absence of action to the contrary the Board of Governors shall be deemed to have formulated, established and published the following rules:

(a) All open amateur fencing competitions in the United States, its territories and possessions, shall be conducted under the rules and sanction of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

(b) Only amateur members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to compete in open League events.

(c) An amateur fencer wilfully competing in an open amateur competition in the United States, its territories and possessions, not held under the rules and sanction of the A.F.L.A., shall be liable to suspension and may be held ineligible to enter any contest under League auspices for such period of time as the Board of Governors may determine.

(d) Any amateur knowingly competing in an open amateur fencing competition with a fencer who has been suspended or disqualified by the Board of Governors of this League renders himself liable to be barred from entering all competitions held under A.F.L.A. rules.

(e) No professional shall be permitted to compete in any amateur competition. Professional Associate Members appointed to a Bout Committee shall not participate in the seeding of contestants or setting up of pools.

(f) Managers of all fencing competitions and Chairmen of Divisions shall be notified of the suspension or disqualification of any member of the League.

Section 9. The Board of Governors shall receive bids from the various divisions to hold the annual National Championship Tournament and shall select the time and place thereof. In no event shall the National Championship Tournament be held prior to the 30th day from the mailing of notice pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter V.

Section 10. Voting by Mail and Telegraph.

(a) Any specific question or matter which might be passed upon at a Special Meeting of the Board shall be submitted to a vote by mail or telegraph at the discretion of the President, or upon written request of any four members of the Board of Governors, or upon the vote of a majority of the Governors present at any meeting of the Board.

(b) On votes by mail, the Secretary of the League shall mail to each member of the Board a clear statement of the question to be voted upon, and of the date on which voting shall be closed, with a request that each member cast his vote thereon and communicate it to the Secretary prior to the closing date. The closing date shall be not less than 15 days after the mailing of the question. On votes by telegraph, the same procedure shall be followed except that the vote in such cases may be closed within 48 hours.

(c) All mail and telegraph votes received by the Secretary shall be preserved and filed. The Secretary may at any time when sufficient votes have been received to either carry or reject a mail or telegraph vote, announce the result of the same and the result so announced shall be conclusive. Within five days after the closing of said vote, the Secretary shall mail to each member of the Board a copy of the question and the result of the vote thereon, to wit: the number voting for and in opposition thereto, with a statement of whether said question had been carried or defeated.

CHAPTER VII

NON-DIVISIONAL GOVERNORS

Section 1. Each year prior to June 1st the Board of Governors shall elect the appropriate number of Non-Divisional Governors who shall take office as of the next ensuing Annual Meeting of the Board and shall hold office until their successors are elected. [See Constitution, Art. IV, Section 1(a).]

Section 2. Vacancies occurring in the office of Non-Divisional Governors shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Governors.

CHAPTER VIII

DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS

(A) Divisions

Section 1. The application for a Charter, addressed to the Secretary of the League, shall be signed by not less than ten fencers eligible for Active or Collegiate Membership, accompanied by the dues and fees for the current year prescribed in the By-Laws and outlining the territorial jurisdiction sought for the proposed Division.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall, at its discretion, grant or deny the request for a Charter. If granted, the Charter shall be the Constitution of the Division and the members thereof shall, within six months, enact the By-Laws for the administration of local affairs and submit a copy to the Secretary of the League for approval.

Section 3. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Division, of which there shall be at least 15 days' notice, and a quorum shall consist of seven voting members present in person or by proxy.

Section 4. At the Annual Meeting of the Division there shall be elected a Nominating Committee of not less than three members who shall nominate candidates for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and from one to six additional members of the Executive Committee to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting of the Division. A motion to close nominations for members of the Nominating Committee shall not be in order until nominations have been made of Divisional members who are members of at least three or more fencing organizations in the Division. Nominations shall be filed by the Nominating Committee with the Secretary of the Division not later than six months after the Annual Meeting and the Secretary shall publicize such nominations to all voting members of the Division within one month of their filing. The nominees for any office other than Chairman or Vice-Chairman may be Associate Members. Additional nominations may be made on written petition of not less than five voting members of the Division, provided such petition is filed with the Secretary not later than one month after the Committee's nominations have been publicized. Where there is more than one nomination for

any office the Secretary shall proceed as directed in Section 5, Chapter III and Chapter V of these By-Laws.

Section 5. The Management of the Division shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall consist of the elected officers and other annually elected members in accordance with Section 4 of this Chapter VIII. When a Division is entitled to one or more Additional Governors, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill such office from its membership.

Section 6. The disciplinary powers of the Executive Committee of the Division are limited to reprimands and suspensions for one year or less, and subject to the guarantees afforded to all members of the League in Section 2, Article IV of the Constitution of the League. All disciplinary action must be reported to the Secretary of the League immediately, stating the discipline taken, the facts giving rise to such action, and the member or members involved. Cases which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, require more drastic disciplinary measures shall be reported fully within thirty days of the occurrence and shall include the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The Division Chairman shall, not less than twenty days prior to the Annual Meeting of the League, file with the Secretary of the League a complete report of the membership, finances and activities of the Division for the current year.

(B) Sections

Section 8. Three or more Divisions may file a petition with the Board of Governors for the creation of a Section.

Section 9. When a Section has been established by resolution of the Board of Governors, the Divisions assigned thereto shall, within one year thereafter, submit to the Secretary of the League for approval a copy of the By-Laws for the conduct of Sectional affairs.

Section 10. Membership in a Section is limited to members of the component Divisions.

Section 11. The Management of a Section shall be vested in an Executive Committee composed of the League's Vice-President from that Section (who shall act as Chairman), the Chairmen of the Divisions which comprise the Section, and any Additional Governors from a Division in the Section. The Executive Committee shall conduct annual Sectional Championships and shall have such other powers as may be designated by the Board of Governors. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 12. The disciplinary powers of the Executive Committee shall be limited to the competitive penalties of expulsion or exclusion. All other discipline shall be referred to the offending member's Division or to the Board of Governors.

Section 13. The Sectional Vice-President shall, not less than twenty days prior to the Annual Meeting of the League, file with the Secretary of the League a report of the finances and activities of the Section for the current year.

CHAPTER IX

LEAGUE COLORS

The colors of the League shall be Dark Blue and Gold.

CHAPTER X
ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ALL MEETINGS

1. Reading of Minutes
2. Report of Officers and Committees
3. Unfinished Business
4. Elections
5. New Business

CHAPTER XI
AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at the Annual Meetings providing the proposed amendment is submitted in writing to the Secretary of the League by April 1st. In addition, these By-Laws, other than Chapters II, III and V, may be amended by the affirmative vote by mail of three-fourths of the members of the Board then entitled to vote. Any Amendment by the members of the Board of Governors shall take effect upon adoption but shall be valid only until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the League.

E. — ARTICLES OF ALLIANCE
BETWEEN THE
AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
AND THE
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

1. At all meetings of the Amateur Athletic Union the Fencers League shall be entitled to representation by not more than four delegates, or duly elected alternates of such delegates, having collectively one vote.

2. From among those delegates one shall be chosen to become a member of the Board of Governors of the Amateur Athletic Union who shall have voice, vote and privilege equal to all other members of the Board upon all matters coming before it.

3. All members of the clubs of the Amateur Athletic Union entering competitions of the Fencers League shall be governed by the rules of the Fencers League, and members of the Fencers League competing in Amateur Athletic Union Games shall be governed by the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union.

4. The Amateur Athletic Union further agrees that all Fencing Championships and Fencing competitions of any character, open or closed, shall be held under the rules of the Fencers League.

5. Each party of this Alliance shall respect and enforce all penalties of suspension and disqualification inflicted by the other party.

6. These Articles of Alliance shall be terminated by either party upon thirty days' notice to the other party.

Signed on behalf of the Amateur Fencers League of America

GRAEMME M. HAMMOND, *President*
W. SCOTT O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

Signed on behalf of the Amateur Athletic Union

JOS. B. MACCABE, *President*
JAMES E. SULLIVAN, *Secretary*

Dated, New York, October 6, 1905.

F. — ABSTRACTS FROM THE STATUTES
OF THE
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME
(1955 Edition)

1. The Federation Internationale d'Esime (F.I.E.) was founded in Paris on 29 November 1913 by official delegates representing the fencing organizations of Belgium, Bohemia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, and Norway (p. 3). Its membership in 1955-56 included 52 national fencing groups (p. 35).

2. The F.I.E. recognizes only one official governing body for the sport of fencing in each country. The word "country" has the meaning accorded to it by the International Olympic Committee (p. 6). The Presidents of affiliated groups have the rank of F.I.E. Vice-Presidents and represent the F.I.E. President on all international matters within their federation whenever the President cannot be there (p. 11). The Amateur Fencers League of America is the recognized governing body for fencing in the United States (p. 31).

3. The F.I.E. is concerned primarily with matters of international import, and not with the internal organization of its member groups (p. 6). Nevertheless, the F.I.E. requires that every member group shall be officially recognized by the Olympic Committee of its country, that it have a sufficient number of fencers who are members of it, and that it have a constitution which is not contrary to the objectives of the F.I.E. National groups (federations) affiliated with the F.I.E. may include both professionals and amateurs, but *on all international questions* professionals shall not take part in amateur matters and amateurs shall not take part in professional matters (p. 8).

4. The international amateur license, issued by the F.I.E., is compulsory for all persons who in any way participate in F.I.E. affairs: Members of the Central Office, members of commissions, vice-presidents, participants in F.I.E. Congresses, delegations to and non-competing captains in official F.I.E. competitions, members of the Jury of Appeal, members of the Bout Committee, Presidents of the Jury and judges, etc. (p. 18). The international amateur license is required of all fencers who take part in any international competition, civilian or military, organized by any national federation affiliated with the F.I.E. or by any club or other organization affiliated with such a national federation (p. 19). No entry is valid unless accompanied by the number of the competitor's F.I.E. license (p. 19).

5. The F.I.E. license is valid for the calendar year and expires on 31 December, except that *new* licenses issued in the last quarter of a year are valid for the following year (p. 19). Licenses are issued and renewed annually at a nominal fee through the national federations only (p. 19). United States licenses are identified by the symbol "M" (p. 31).

6. No entries for international competitions, team or individual, are valid unless transmitted by the appropriate national federation; and no difference is made in this respect for invitation tournaments, challenges, or any other type of competition (p. 7).

7. The organizing committee at an international competition must require every participant to show his F.I.E. license for the current year; or to sign a formal declaration that he has paid the license fee to his national federation for the current year. Delinquent fencers and national federations are subject to certain penalties (p. 21).

8. No individual or team from a country affiliated with the F.I.E. may participate in any competition organized by a country not affiliated with the F.I.E.;

and, conversely, no individual or team from a country not affiliated with the F.I.E. may participate in any competition organized by a country affiliated with the F.I.E.; except that, for individual events only, fencers from a country that has no national fencing federation may be entered if they have an amateur license (p. 7) issued by the F.I.E. through the Olympic Committee of that country (p. 19).

9. All disciplinary actions, including suspension and permanent disqualification, inflicted by a national federation must be reported to the Central Office of the F.I.E. and to all the national fencing federations affiliated with the F.I.E. (p. 7).

10. When a fencer regularly resides in a foreign country, he is deemed to belong to the country of his nationality and the country of his residence for matters concerning license, service on juries, etc. (p. 21). However, different rules apply for entries in international competitions, as follows (p. 22):

(a) For the Olympic Games, the rules of the International Olympic Committee on citizenship of competitors are obligatory;

(b) For the World Championships and other official F.I.E. competitions, the participants must be citizens of the country they represent (by birth, naturalization, or otherwise); except that persons who are juridically "stateless" may be admitted to individual events by the Central Office of the F.I.E. if their entries are submitted by the country in which they reside;

(c) For other international competitions the foregoing rules should as a matter of preference be followed; but the F.I.E. permits a foreigner to represent the country of his residence if he has resided there for at least five consecutive years and has not represented his own country for five years;

(d) For international competitions *between clubs*, questions of citizenship are immaterial, as long as team members are in fact active members of the club they represent and actually reside in the country where that club is located;

(e) On the other hand, in competitions where the principle of nationality is paramount, the F.I.E. cannot object to a fencer's representation of his country even if he actually resides in another country; and the F.I.E. recommends that affiliated federations accept the principle that a foreign fencer residing in their country may fence on a team representing the country of his nationality even against a team representing the country of his residence.

CHAPTER II — BASIC POLICIES OF THE A.F.L.A.

A. — THE AMATEUR CODE

§ 1. Constitutional definition.

The Constitution of the A.F.L.A. (Article III, Section 2) contains the following definition:

"An amateur fencer is one who has not accepted directly or indirectly any fee, gratuity, money or its equivalent as a consideration for the performance of any act or service arising from his knowledge or skill in fencing; and who is not and has not been a professional in any other branch of athletics."

The first clause of this definition does not apply, however, to writing, editing or publishing news reports, articles, magazines or books on fencing, nor to members of the Armed Forces who are detailed or assigned to instruct in fencing and do so in the discharge of their official duty.

The Constitution (Article IV, Section 2) also gives the Board of Governors

the exclusive power to interpret and apply the Amateur Code. The Board of Governors is guided in its interpretations and decisions by its own precedents and those of the Amateur Athletic Union and the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime.

§ 2. Precedents in the United States.

Under the precedents of the A.A.U., the following acts are forbidden:

(a) Participation in any competition not held under the rules and sanction of the A.F.L.A.

(b) Obtaining any financial benefits, directly or indirectly, from participation in any competition or exhibition in any sport. This includes the sale of personal prizes, receipt of excessive travel expenses, and any other financial benefits.

(c) Capitalizing on athletic fame. This includes "testimonials" (whether or not financially beneficial) and any employment based on athletic fame or ability.

(d) Participation in a competition or exhibition against or with persons ineligible to compete as amateurs, without having first obtained permission to do so from the Board of Governors or from an authorized representative of the Board (Chairman or Executive Committee of a Division).

(e) Participation in any sport under an assumed name, unless duly approved in advance by the proper governing body; or commission of fraud or of grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with participation in any athletic sport.

§ 3. International precedents.

The F.I.E. defines an amateur as a fencer who engages in the sport solely for the love of the sport and without ever having derived financial benefit therefrom. The F.I.E. Statutes (pp. 17-18, 1955 Edition) report the following precedents:

(a) Members of the armed forces who have never been fencing masters or professionals in fencing and who have never derived financial benefits from the sport are amateurs, even if they are assigned by their government to direct courses in fencing in military establishments provided they are not required to give lessons.

(b) An amateur may participate in mixed competitions (with or against professionals) provided that such competitions are authorized by their national federation; he may not compete in an event organized by a professional group (Congress of 1931).

(c) An amateur has the right to receive in cash, as a maximum, the reimbursement of his actual expenses in participating in a competition (Decision of International Olympic Committee, 35th session, March 1938). But such reimbursement cannot be contingent upon the final standing of such a fencer in the competition (Congress of 1949). Reimbursable expenses may include: (1) transportation costs by car, ship (first class), or train (second class); (2) the cost of lodging and meals; (3) pocket money, in a moderate amount (Congress of 1956).

(d) An amateur does not have the right: (1) to bet upon the competitions in which he takes part; (2) to sell or pledge prizes won in competition; (3) to participate in competitions under an assumed name without the authorization of his national federation; (4) to participate in competitions for money; (5) to lend his name to any kind of commercial advertisement; (6) to accept cash prizes in competition. Cash prizes are forbidden, even in mixed amateur-professional tournaments (Congress of 1929); (7) to accept reimbursement for participation expenses in international tournaments for a period longer than 30 days per year, travel time excluded; (8) to accept reimbursement of the expenses of persons accompanying him to a competition; (9) to accept, under any form whatsoever, any indemnification for loss of earnings or loss of employment time. However,

this prohibition does not include: "Vacations under the normal conditions of his profession, or vacations granted under similar conditions on the occasion of the Olympic Games (and provided that they do not constitute in a round-about fashion a reimbursement, direct or indirect, of lost salary), or the payment in hardship and exceptional cases, after due inquiry in each instance and in the form of a disbursement made directly to the employer, of an indemnity to the wife or mother of an athlete who is the *sole support* of his family." (International Olympic Committee, 35th session, March 1938); (10) to accept any remuneration to shift his affiliation from one club to another or to remain a member of a club; (11) to accept any remuneration for the use of articles or equipment marketed by a particular dealer (Congress of 1930); (11) to receive remuneration as a professor of physical education or of sports, unless such activity is incidental to the rendering of academic teaching services, strictly interpreted (Congress of July 1937). Nevertheless, inspectors and officials of governmental sports departments who are not fencing masters shall be considered amateurs; and the same shall apply to professors who teach the theory and not the practice of physical education or sports (Congress of 1951).

§ 4. Amateur coaching.

The A.F.L.A. recognizes and permits amateur coaching (the teaching of fencing by amateurs). However, an amateur may not accept non-athletic employment if such employment is in any way dependent upon his ability to compete in or teach any athletic sport. If his athletic activities are obligatory, or regularly scheduled, or a prerequisite to the contract of employment, or if the time devoted thereto exceeds that required by the non-athletic employment, there is a *prima-facie* violation of these rules. Furthermore, an amateur is not permitted to offer instruction or coaching, even if he receives no compensation, in any case where some person or organization assesses a fee or requires a consideration for such instruction, as distinguished from the use of physical facilities.

§ 5. Teachers of physical education.

The A.F.L.A. considers teachers of physical education to be amateurs only when their duties are limited to administrative, medical, and theoretical aspects of athletic instruction. Professional teachers of the practice of any competitive sport are considered professionals in fencing.

§ 6. Administration of Amateur Code.

Each case in which there has been an alleged violation of the letter or spirit of the Amateur Code will be reviewed on its merits by the Board of Governors. Where a violation is found to exist, the Board may terminate or suspend the amateur status of the violator, depending on the seriousness of the offense. Insofar as the action of the Board is disciplinary in character, based on a violation of the obligations which a person assumes when he competes as an amateur, the individual affected retains his constitutional guarantees of appeal and review (Art. 592-598; Constitution, Art. IV, Section 2).

B. — RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITIONS

§ 1. Requirement of official permission.

No amateur member of the A.F.L.A. may participate in an exhibition without permission from the Board of Governors, or from the divisional Executive Committee, or from an authorized representative of these governing bodies. Violation of this rule may result in severe disciplinary penalties.

§ 2. Type of exhibition.

It is the policy of the A.F.L.A. that any fencing exhibition using A.F.L.A. members must be conducted in a manner which will properly publicize and popularize the sport of fencing. No exhibition shall be authorized under conditions that place the sport in an unfavorable light.

Exhibitions of modern fencing shall conform to the rules of the A.F.L.A. No bouts between men and women are permitted if any score is kept. The wearing of masks is required except that an A.F.L.A. member may take an exhibition lesson from an experienced teacher without a mask.

Exhibitions of historical sword play in period costume are encouraged and special comedy bouts are permitted within the limits of good taste.

§ 3. Television programs.

Participation of an amateur fencer in television programs is strictly limited to that portion of the telecast devoted to entertainment. Appearance in any portion devoted to an advertising message is prohibited.

§ 4. Financial limitations.

An amateur may be reimbursed in full or in part for any expenses of travel, room and/or board incurred by him in connection with a fencing exhibition; he may accept a medal or prize of an impractical nature that may be offered; but any other compensation or remuneration may cost him his amateur standing.

The A.F.L.A. places no limitation on the compensation or remuneration received by its professional Associate members in any exhibition given exclusively by professionals. However, the A.F.L.A. will not normally approve the participation of any of its amateur members in any exhibitions in which a professional receives compensation in excess of \$50 and it reserves the right to request a share of any admission fee or other income for the benefit of the A.F.L.A.'s Olympic or International Fencing Fund.

C. — THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

§ 1. Nature of award.

The Professional Certificate of Merit is an honorary award voted by the Board of Governors to professional teachers of fencing who have rendered distinguished service to the A.F.L.A. by developing among their students the qualities of technical skill and love of fencing, as well as the spirit of sportsmanship.

§ 2. Basis of award.

The Professional Certificate of Merit does not purport to certify the professional competence of fencing instructors, since the A.F.L.A. does not conduct a training school for fencing masters. The A.F.L.A., however, is in a position to ascertain the fencing spirit and ability of the amateurs who have been trained for competition by a particular teacher and to assess the contributions made by that teacher to the progress of the sport in the A.F.L.A. division or other area in which he practices his profession. The A.F.L.A. believes that outstanding instructors are deserving of recognition by the national governing body for amateur fencing in the United States. The Certificate of Merit embodies such recognition.

§ 3. Method of award.

The professional Certificate of Merit is never voluntarily offered by the Board of Governors, and it cannot be solicited by a teacher of fencing. A proposal for the award must be made by two or more members of the Board, or by the Executive Committee of a division, in the form of a letter to the Board accompanied by the fencing history of the professional to be honored and the names

and achievements of at least two of his recognized pupils. The submitted material is then reviewed by the Certificate of Merit Committee who reports to the Board of Governors its findings and recommendations.

D. — ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS

§ 1. Committees of the Board.

In carrying out its functions the Board of Governors relies heavily upon the work of certain standing committees and a few special committees. The most important standing committees are:

(a) *Executive Committee* consisting of not less than 5 Governors, which must include 4 of the elected officers of the League and is empowered to act for the Board during the period between regular meetings.

(b) *Rules Committee* which recommends to the Board changes in the rules of competition. All proposals for rule changes are normally referred to this committee for study and when the Board resolves that a change shall be made, the committee is requested to draft the exact text and present it for formal approval.

(c) *Policy Board on American Fencing* consists of the elected officers of the League and the publisher and editor of the magazine. All questions of policy affecting the publication of American Fencing are referred for decision to this Board.

(d) *Other Committees.* The Board also relies upon the assistance of a Constitutional Committee, Reinstatement Committee, and Certificate of Merit Committee.

§ 2. The national Nominating Committee.

The national Nominating Committee is elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the League. It must consist of 5 voting members who come from at least 4 different sections of the country.

The function of the committee is to select candidates for national office and present a slate to the secretary of the League before February 1st. The committee is so composed that it is expected the members will sound out sentiment in their respective Sections and submit names which meet with general approval.

Normally Presidents have been retained for 4 years. One new Vice-President is normally elected each year with the "First Vice-President" being dropped and the others moved up so that each of the 4 sectional officers serve 4 years; the new Vice-President must come from the same Section as the one dropped but preferably from another division. The Secretary and/or Treasurer normally have been retained from 2 to 7 years. The Foreign Secretary has seldom been replaced because the value of the incumbent increases each year due to personal contacts with foreign federations and the F.I.E.

The process for contested elections is available primarily as a safety valve in the event that the Nominating Committee fails to perform its function properly. Since contested elections are costly and usually generate animosities, the importance of the deliberations of the Nominating Committee cannot be overemphasized.

CHAPTER III — MANAGEMENT OF DIVISIONS

A. — HOW TO FORM AN A.F.L.A. DIVISION

§ 1. Filing of petition.

When 10 or more fencers over the age of 19 years, residing or fencing in an area not included within an existing division, decide that they would like to form and A.F.L.A. division, they should determine the territory that the proposed division should cover with due attention to the problems of transportation, facilities, etc., which might arise in connection with the scheduling of divisional competitions. A petition should then be sent by the temporary chairman or secretary of the group to the Secretary of the League requesting a charter and outlining the territorial boundaries over which jurisdiction is desired. The petition must be subscribed with the signatures and addresses of not less than 10 prospective members over the age of 19, and must be accompanied by a check or money order in a sum equalling the initiation fees and the full national, sectional, and divisional dues for all petitions (See Constitution, Art. III, and By-Laws, Chapter II).

§ 2. Action on petition.

Action on a petition for a charter is usually taken by the Board of Governors within a few weeks of its receipt by the Secretary unless there is a conflict of jurisdiction between the proposed division and an existing division, in which case the existing division is consulted before any decision is made. If the petition is approved, the Board of Governors will issue a charter, will elect the petitioners to membership, and will retain their national dues. The remaining dues and initiation fees will be returned to the designated treasurer of the new division. If the petition is denied, all moneys will be returned to the person from whom it was received.

§ 3. Executive Committee.

As soon as the charter is granted, the members of the new division should hold a formal meeting for the election of the Executive Committee to conduct divisional affairs. The Executive Committee should be of a size commensurate with the total membership of the division and should include a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer (or a Secretary and a Treasurer). The names and titles of such officers, with their addresses, must be forwarded promptly to the Secretary of the A.F.L.A.

§ 4. Divisional By-Laws.

As soon as possible thereafter, the Executive Committee should draft the divisional by-laws for adoption by the members; these by-laws should be submitted to the Secretary of the League and become effective upon approval by the Board of Governors. The by-laws must conform to the A.F.L.A. Constitution and By-Laws, and provision must be made for an annual meeting of the divisional membership at which a complete slate of officers (and other members of the Executive Committee, if any) are to be elected. The A.F.L.A. year runs from September 1 to August 31. The procedures for meetings and elections are set forth in Chapter VIII of the A.F.L.A. By-Laws. In other respects, each division as a rule may draft its by-laws in any form that in the judgment of the membership is best suited for the internal government of the division.

§ 5. Divisional Members of Board of Governors.

The Chairman of the division is automatically a member of the national Board of Governors. Any division which has 50 or more members (not counting Stu-

dent Members) is entitled to additional representation on the Board, so that it has one Governor (including the Chairman) for every 35 members. Any Governors other than the Chairman are called "Additional Governors" and are normally elected at the annual meeting of the division, but the divisional by-laws may delegate the selection of Additional Governors to the division's Executive Committee.

B. — DUTIES AND POWERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

§ 1. Composition of Executive Committee.

In determining the composition of the Executive Committee, it is desirable to keep in mind the duties and qualifications of the persons who are charged with the conduct of divisional affairs.

(a) The Chairman of the Division is of course its chief executive officer, and as a member of the Board of Governors he represents the national body in the division. He should have a good understanding of local problems as well as of national policy, he should command the respect of the various groups within the divisional membership, and be competent to advance the interests of fencing in his relations with other divisions and the national officers.

(b) The Secretary or the Secretary-Treasurer is usually entrusted with the the major administrative burden in the division and has the most frequent contact with the national office. He should be a person who is meticulous in the keeping of divisional records and in the making of accurate and timely reports required for various purposes. (See below, Duties of the Secretary.)

(c) The Chairman of the Bout Committee need not be but often is a member of the Executive Committee, since the conduct of local competitions is the most important single activity in a division. He should be a fencer who has organizational skill and can enlist the cooperation of the many persons involved in the running of events.

(d) Members of clubs or other organizations possessing facilities for the holding of competitions are often elected to the Executive Committee in order that they may be thoroughly familiar with the needs of the division and can effectively represent the A.F.L.A. at their respective clubs.

§ 2. Schedule of events.

The Executive Committee must provide a schedule of divisional competitions (see Art. 513-519), including a competition to qualify local fencers for the sectional championships (if the division belongs to a section) and for the national championship tournament, which may be the same competition as the divisional championship. In planning the schedule, it should be remembered that the Executive Committee is responsible for the provision of adequate physical facilities for competitions, as outlined in Art. 561-566; for the rating of certain divisional competitions (Art. 542-545), and for making recommendations to the Board of Governors for national rating of competitions (Art. 539-542). The schedule should include all the information required by Art. 520.

Although the older classification of fencers (senior, intermediate, junior, novice, and prep) have been discontinued in the national rules in favor of the Class A, Class B, and Class C rankings, it is still possible for a division to restrict local competitions to unclassified fencers, or to unclassified fencers of novice or prep rank by establishing a *divisional definition* for these sub-classifications. (Art. 544.) The only difference from the former rules is that these lower groupings are valid only for divisional purposes; on a national basis, fencers in these groupings are identified as "unclassified" fencers. Every division using these sub-classifications should clearly define them and include the definition in the schedule of events. If it is desired to conduct invitation competitions for non-A.F.L.A. members (e.g.,

high school students), only one such competition in each weapon should be scheduled in any season.

The Executive Committee is also responsible for obtaining a sufficient number of officials to conduct the competitions on the schedule. In most divisions, it is desirable for the Executive Committee to require all competitors to remain at least one round beyond the one in which they are eliminated, in order to assist in the judging (See Art. 520, sample schedule).

§ 3. Entry fees.

The entry fee for each event on the schedule is fixed by the Executive Committee, but it must include a 10¢ "tax" on each contestant to be forwarded to the Secretary of the League for the National Championship Rotating Fund, which is used to facilitate rotation of the national championships to fencing centers other than New York City. The Board of Governors also requests that an additional "tax" be levied on each contestant for the A.F.L.A. International Fund which is used to help finance the U.S. Olympic and Pan American teams. The recommended tax is 15¢ for the top-level competitions, 10¢ for the middle-level competitions, and 5¢ for the lower-level competitions in the divisions.

§ 4. Disciplinary matters.

Under the Constitution of the A.F.L.A. only the Board of Governors has jurisdiction in matters dealing with the Amateur Code (Chapter II of this Title). Therefore the Executive Committee of a division has no authority to make a final decision on amateur standing or on disciplinary penalties for minor violations of the Amateur Code. In cases of flagrant violation of the Code, the Executive Committee may suspend the fencer involved, and immediately refer the matter to the Board of Governors for action in accordance with the provisions of the Rules (Art. 598(b), 599, 650) and of the Constitution. Other disciplinary matters, including those involving misconduct at competitions, abuse of authority, or other improper conduct, should be handled strictly in accord with the rules of order and discipline (Title Seven, Chapter II, Art. 576-600), and an appropriate record of the action taken and the reasons therefor should be forwarded promptly to the Secretary of the League.

C. — DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

§ 1. Collection of dues.

At the beginning of each fencing season, the Secretary should send out Dues Notices to all members of the division, stating the total annual dues (national, sectional and divisional) for that season as provided in Chapter II of the By-Laws of the A.F.L.A. The national dues are forwarded periodically to the Secretary of the A.F.L.A., but the division retains the initiation fees and divisional dues (and the sectional dues if the division does not belong to a section) for its own use.

§ 2. Membership cards and records.

The Secretary of each division will receive an adequate supply of membership cards from the Secretary or Recording Secretary of the League before the start of each season. He should issue a current membership card to every member upon payment of the season's dues. This card will certify to the Bout Committee that the member is in good standing with respect to dues payments. The divisional secretary must keep an up-to-date record of divisional members in good standing and their current addresses.

§ 3. Monthly membership reports.

At least once each month the Secretary of a division should prepare four copies

of the membership report, listing the full name, age, address, membership class, and competitive classification of each member whose dues have been received. Two copies should be filed with the Recording Secretary of the A.F.L.A., accompanied by the appropriate national dues. Checks should be made payable to the Amateur Fencers League of America. The third copy, with the appropriate sectional dues of Active and Collegiate members, should be sent to the proper sectional officer, but may be dispensed with if the division does not belong to a section. *In addition, the report must include any changes of address of members listed in earlier reports.* Unless such changes of address are promptly reported, members will not receive their copies of *American Fencing*, since the magazine is distributed under the second class mailing privilege.

§ 4. Reports to American Fencing.

The Secretary of each division is responsible for forwarding to the editorial office of *American Fencing* the results of divisional competitions and such other matters that may be of general interest and may warrant publication.

§ 5. Certification of qualifiers for national championships.

The Secretary of each division should be thoroughly familiar with the rules governing qualification for the sectional and national championships, in respect to the number and the certification of qualifiers; and he should be careful to point out to all qualifiers and alternates for the national championships that they must personally file timely entries (accompanied by entry fees) with the Chairman of the National Bout Committee as required by the rules (Art. 761-765). As soon as possible, the Secretary of the division should send to the Secretary of the League his formal certification of qualifiers and alternates as required by Art. 758-759. Unless this certification is received by the Secretary of the League in time for checking and forwarding to the Chairman of the National Bout Committee, the qualifiers or alternates may be barred from the tournament. In the event that alternates become eligible for the tournament, the Secretary of the division must also certify their entries as required by Art. 763 and 765.

§ 6. Annual report.

At the end of each season, the Secretary of the division must file the Annual Final Report covering the membership of the division, the number of competitions and competitors, the names and addresses of the officers elected for the next subsequent season, and other important information requested on a form supplied by the Recording Secretary.

Each year the Board of Governors awards the perpetual Connecticut Trophy to the division that has shown the greatest progress and best administration as reflected in the reports to the national office.

D. — PROMOTION OF FENCING ACTIVITIES

§ 1. General policy.

The promotion of fencing and the A.F.L.A. is the concern of every member of the League. The divisional officers are charged with formulating and supervising a program to popularize the sport within the territory designated in the division charter. To achieve the best results it is recommended that the Executive Committee appoint a special committee to concentrate on this effort.

Exhibitions, competitions, seminars, press articles and radio and television interviews are essential to a good promotional program. In utilizing the various media of publicity certain principles must be observed; fencing is a competitive sport admirably suited to all age groups and both sexes; it is not a beauty aid or re-

ducing exercise; the sport must be presented with dignity and never exposed to ridicule; the historical background appeals to the imagination of many; humor may and should be introduced at exhibitions providing it is in good taste and does not make a farce of the sport itself. It is recommended that exhibitions be prefaced by a brief explanation of the weapons, the target, and the basic movements.

A full program of competitions for members at comparable levels of ability and experience is absolutely essential. Competitions should be staged under the best available conditions and with some regard for the uninitiated audience; specially prepared Spectator Pamphlets may be purchased from the Recording Secretary of the League.

§ 2. Development of young fencers.

The division must exert every effort to develop new fencing groups within its borders. Fertile ground exists in the schools, universities and Y.M.C.A.s. A special emphasis should be placed upon the development of groups in the high schools as this will provide the soundest foundation for the future of the division.

Initial interest in most cases is created by well planned exhibitions but these cannot bear fruit unless the active fencers volunteer to provide the necessary instruction. Amateur coaching is the most important single asset of the A.F.L.A. Through the unselfish efforts of our amateurs the League has been able to establish many new groups and some of the greatest fencers in the United States trace their original interest to an amateur coach.

§ 3. Professional coaching.

The professional coach is the best investment for any group of active fencers. The goal of the amateur coach should be to arouse and develop the interest of the group to the point where it is able to support a regular professional teacher. The amateur has many personal, family, and business commitments which may in time make it impossible for him to devote his energies to coaching; when this happens the group often dissolves. The professional is the best insurance for the continuance of fencing activity.

Divisional officers should cooperate with the clubs in obtaining the services of at least one qualified professional in the division. When any group or any division is ready for professional coaching the National office of the A.F.L.A. and the National Fencing Coaches Association will cooperate in procuring the best available talent.

§ 4. Participation in sectional and national events.

Competitive fencing is the primary goal of the A.F.L.A. and its divisions. In promoting competitions among members within its area, the division should encourage the participation of its best fencers in sectional and national competitions. Such participation provides a major incentive and the experience gained by the members will be instrumental in raising the level of competition for the entire division.

In the larger divisions the Executive Committee should make every effort to provide at least token financial assistance to its champions so as to assure representation at sectional and national competitions.

§ 5. Financial assistance for national events.

The national Board of Governors recognizes the desirability of having strong representation from all sections of the country at the National Championship Tournament and has formulated a policy of financial assistance to assure this goal.

The host division is required to provide travel allowances under the following policies:

(a) No allowance is made to any competitor residing within the section where the Championships are held.

(b) National champions are entitled to the full cost of round trip transportation by air on scheduled airlines.

(c) Outstanding competitors in the previous year's Championships (medalists and high ranking finalists) should be considered for partial allowance not to exceed 1/3 of round trip fare by air.

(d) Token allowances may be made to sectional champions on condition that the allowance be matched by a contribution from the sectional treasury.

(e) Sectional champions' allowances may be added to amounts given to outstanding competitors if one person is entitled to both. However, no individual may receive more than two allowances and the defending national champions may receive only one each.

(f) Unused allowances cannot be transferred to others.

§ 6. Supplies.

The following items to assist in the promotion of fencing activities may be purchased from the Recording Secretary:

(a) *Official A.F.L.A. pin.* A gold filled foil and shield with enamel A.F.L.A. colors. Available in screw-back or pin-back. All orders must be prepaid (\$3.) and should indicate type of back desired.

(b) *Official A.F.L.A. shields* of embroidered silk to be worn on the lower "back" sleeve of the fencing jacket. There is a gray field at the top on which are fixed bronze, silver or gold stars to denote the fencer's rank in each weapon: foil at the left, epee in the center and sabre at the right. The bronze star is for Class C, silver for Class B, gold for Class A. The shield is \$1. and each star is 25¢. When ordering be sure to indicate the number and types of stars needed.

(c) *National Championship Competitor's shield.* An embroidered shield in red, white and blue indicating the wearer has competed in the National Championships. Those eligible may purchase them for \$1.50.

(d) *Official score sheets* (A.F.L.A. team or individual) at \$1. per pad.

(e) *Spectators Pamphlet.* Attractive four-page (8½ x 11) illustrated explanation of fencing to enable spectators to understand and enjoy the sport. Available in multiples of 100 at \$2.50 or in lesser quantities at 3¢ each.

(f) *Rules Book and Manual.* Additional copies of this Rules Book and Manual are available at \$2.00 per copy. Library edition, bound in hard covers, \$3.00 per copy.

E. — HOW TO CONDUCT AN A.F.L.A. COMPETITION

§ 1. Check on facilities and equipment.

Prior to the time set for the arrival of competitors, the person in charge of the competition should check the physical layout of the strips, lighting, electrical registration apparatus if any, and all other matters for which the Organizing Committee is primarily responsible. He should make sure that there are sufficient score sheets of the proper type, timing devices for the bouts, and a first-aid kit. If the weapons and equipment are to be checked before the competition, there should be facilities and personnel available to perform this task. In events with electrical equipment, a technician should be assigned for the inspection and repair of such weapons and equipment.

§ 2. Plan of competition.

In all instances the person in charge of an event should receive the list of entries well in advance of the scheduled time. It is preferable that the list be

available several days before the date of the event, in order that the plan of competition be properly drawn up.

The first step in planning an individual competition is to determine the number of rounds of competition, and if more than one, the number of pools and the number of qualifiers for the next round. The number of pools and qualifiers are often governed by the number of strips available and the general time limits within which the competition should be run. For example, with three strips and an entry of 20 competitors, it might be decided to run two pools of 7 and one of 6, with 3 qualifying from each for a final of 9. With four strips, it might be better to run four pools of 5 with 2 up for a final of 8, or with 3 up or two semi-final pools of 6 each, and a final of either 6 or 8, depending on the time schedule. It should be remembered that the number of bouts in a pool goes up sharply with each added fencer in the pool, but that larger pools are preferable in the major competitions. Estimates of the time required to run a pool vary considerably according to the weapon and the skill of the competitors and the officials. In general, a foil pool of 6, requiring 15 bouts, can be run in a period between 1 and 1½ hours.

Another factor to take into account is whether ties in bout victories in the qualifying rounds are to be fenced off, as required for the national championships, or are to be resolved by a count of touches. Announcement of the fence-off method must be made at the start of the competition for events other than the national championships. This method may prolong the length of the event.

In general, the same preliminary planning is required for team events. A 9-bout team match in foil usually takes between 45 minutes and one hour to run.

§ 3. Seeding of preliminary pools.

Assuming that the entries have been received in advance, the next step is for the person in charge to rate the prospective competitors in order of strength. If national or local rankings are available, the official list should be followed. If the ability of the contestants is not known to the person in charge, he should consult representatives of the various clubs in order to make up the seeding list. If 20 entries are received, an effort should be made to rate at least the top 12 or 15.

The next step is to distribute the entry list among the desired number of strips for the first round. Using four pools as an example, the seeding of 20 entries would be as follows:

Pool I	Pool II	Pool III	Pool IV
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	18	19	20

By substituting the names for the corresponding numbers, a rough draft of the composition of each pool can be obtained; but there is one more step to be taken before the matter is settled.

This final step is to check each pool as to the distribution of entries from the same club or organization. If any pool has more than its proportionate share of club-mates, some changes *must* be made to achieve the maximum distribution or separation. Changes, as far as possible, should be made from one pool to the other on the same level or line, so as not unduly to upset the seeded strength of the pool; but the rules require maximum separation of contestants, even if the ideal seeding is impaired.

§ 4. Arrival of contestants.

The rules require that the contestants arrive at a competition sometime before

the scheduled hour, and that they report immediately to the Bout Committee. The person in charge should check each arrival against the entry list, and should collect any unpaid dues or entry fees, making an appropriate record of all money taken in. When dues are collected, the full name, age, address, club affiliation, class of membership, and competitive classification of the member should be obtained and recorded for transmittal to the divisional Secretary. If any entries fail to report on time, they should be "scratched" and their names should be deleted from the seeded pools previously prepared. No other change should be made in the composition of the pools unless the number of scratches produces serious inequities in the opinion of the person in charge. Every effort should be made to start fencing at the scheduled time. It is unfair to have the fencers wait around because of late arrivals or administrative default.

§ 5. Score sheets and juries.

The official score sheets should be prepared from the list of seeded pools, but reference should be made to the official order of bouts in assigning the numbers to the contestants. When it is necessary to have two club-mates in one pool, they must fence each other before meeting the other contestants; therefore their names should be placed on the score sheet so that their bout will be called first. When more than two club-mates are in one pool, they must fence one another first, even if a change in the official bout order is required. Whenever possible, the score sheet should be kept by a separate scorer who may also if necessary act as time-keeper.

The person in charge of the event assigns juries to the various pools, keeping in mind the objective of obtaining as neutral a group of officials as possible. Every effort should be made to have a full jury—the President and four judges—even if some contestants have to be used for the purpose. It is desirable to have available some spare judges or Presidents of Jury to make replacements whenever necessary to avoid undue fatigue, or for any other reason. It should be remembered, however, that the Bout Committee has sole power to appoint and remove officials, and that no contestant or team captain has any right under the rules to demand the removal of an official.

§ 6. Make-up of subsequent pools.

If the size of the entry list requires more than one round before the final, the seeding of succeeding rounds is based upon the performance of the qualifiers in the preceding round. Therefore upon conclusion of an elimination pool, each qualifier should be rated as #1, #2, or #3 (if three qualify), according to the number of bout victories, and if there are ties, according to the least touches received, and eventually the most touches given. This system requires that all bouts in the pool be fenced out; if in order to save time some of the bouts are omitted, the results of the pool as far as it was fenced should be followed, but if the relative standing of the fencers would be affected by the unfenced bouts, the person in charge may use the original seedings as a guide to subsequent seeding. Once the standing of the competitors in the preceding round has been determined, the seeding for the next round is as follows:

<i>Semi-final A</i>	<i>Semi-final B</i>
#1 from Pool I	#1 from Pool II
#1 from Pool IV	#1 from Pool III
#2 from Pool II	#2 from Pool I
#2 from Pool III	#2 from Pool IV
#3 from Pool II	#3 from Pool I
#3 from Pool III	#3 from Pool IV

This is the ideal pattern, because it insures the best balance of seeding on the basis of performance in the preceding round and also avoids having the stronger qualifiers from the same pool meet again in the next round. However, the rules require that the maximum separation of club-mates be given priority over the other two considerations (seeding and meeting in previous round) in the make-up of the pools, and some adjustments may be necessary. If so, they should be made on the same level or line, as previously explained.

§ 7. Ties and fence-offs.

In every round the person in charge should check the score sheets before official announcement is made as to qualifiers from elimination pools and as to final standing in the final. The score sheet should be checked as to the number of victories won by each contestant, and cross-checked on the vertical column to insure that for each victory a corresponding defeat has been charged to his opponents. In the event of ties in bout victories, the relative standing of the contestants is determined first by adding the touches received horizontally, and the fencer with the least number ranks higher; if there is a tie in bout victories and touches received, the touches scored are tallied on the vertical column, and the one scoring the larger number obtains the higher rank.

In the event that a fence-off is required for qualification or a prize, or because there is an absolute tie in victories and touches, and only two fencers are involved, the fence-off decides the issue. However, when three or more fencers are involved, and two or more fencers tie in bout victories in the fence-off, the relative standing is determined by adding the touches in the fence-off to the count of touches in the original pool. The only exception is in the case of a tie for first place in an individual event. Such ties cannot be decided on touches, but must be fenced off to a decision on the basis of bout victories, even if several fence-offs are necessary.

§ 8. Planning of team events.

The rules provide a great deal of latitude in planning the organization of team events, inasmuch as it is possible to combine the pool and direct-elimination system. However, the exact pattern of competition should be announced before it starts. When the pool system is used, 2 qualifiers are normally selected from each pool of 3 or 4 teams. Larger pools are unwise in elimination rounds; but if there is ample time available, a single round-robin of five or six teams may be desirable.

In each match, the captain of each team is entitled to know whether his team is at the "top" or "bottom" of the score sheet before submitting a line-up, because the order in which his team members will fence is different for each position on the score sheet; but he is not entitled to learn of the composition or fencing order of the opposing team until after he has submitted his own line-up.

§ 9. Order of matches.

After the composition of each pool has been determined on the basis of seeding, considerable time may be saved by fencing each pool as follows:

(a) If there are three teams in the pool, the first match should be between the two "weaker" teams, with the loser to fence next the top-seeded team in the pool. Usually the two qualifiers may thus be ascertained with only two matches fenced. However, it is most important that all the bouts in the first match be fenced before the second match starts, because there is always the possibility that top-seeded team may lose, and that an eventual tie in match victories may have to be decided by bout victories or touches. It is always unsatisfactory to go back to finish out the first match in such cases.

(b) If there are 4 teams in the pool, the first two matches should pair Team

#1 against Team #4, and Team #2 against Team #3, and all bouts should be fenced in each match. The two winners should then meet the two losers, thus presenting the possibility that the winners in the first pair of matches will win again, so that the two qualifiers will be determined at the conclusion of four matches. Of course, if there is an "upset" in either match in the second set, all bouts must be fenced, and then a third set of two matches is required to complete the round-robin.

§ 10. Ties and fence-offs in team events.

Team events differ from individual events in that fence-offs are very rare. If there is a tie between two teams in match points, whether for qualification in an early round or for first place in the final, such ties are resolved by a count of bouts and, if necessary, by a count of touches received and touches scored. In team events a fence-off is held only when there is a deadlock in match points, in bouts, and in touches received and touches scored.

§ 11. Awards and reports of results.

At the end of the competition the person in charge announces the final results and arranged for the presentation of prizes. If the newspapers are not represented, the results should be given to them by telephone. The score sheets and a financial report should be forwarded promptly to the proper divisional officers.

CHAPTER IV — A.F.L.A. JUDGING GUIDE

A. — GENERAL INFORMATION

§ 1. Objectives of Judging Guide.

This Guide is intended to assist the members of the jury in the efficient performance of their duties. Competent and impartial officials are essential to competitive fencing; nothing can do more harm to the sport every fencer loves than deliberate or negligent disregard of the obligations that a fencer assumes when he accepts appointment on a jury.

§ 2. Knowledge of the rules.

The first requisite of a competent official is knowledge of the rules. This Guide is not a substitute for the Rules Book; its purpose is simply to point up the rules by suggesting the reasons behind some of them, and to help the officials visualize how the rules operate in practice.

§ 3. Theory of the rules.

The officials should understand that the rules provide the framework for the enjoyment of *competitive* fencing by the contestants, and are not intended to teach fencing technique. Many years of experience and constant experimentation in many countries of the world lie behind these rules; and, although there is still some disagreement on occasional details, the present rules constitute the most acceptable compromise that has been worked out to reconcile divergent views among the several schools of fencing. The fundamental theory of the rules is that competitive fencing should be judged on the basis of touches scored, regardless of the technique or style used in fencing. Therefore, the rules do not favor one school over another; and the officials are honor bound to judge competitive bouts as objectively as possible, according to the rules, without regard to the style or technique of the contestants.

§ 4. Conventions of fencing.

Nevertheless, certain technical conventions apply to fencing as a sport, and they are an integral part of the game. The most important technical convention is that of the "right of way" in foil and sabre (see § 14 below) which distinguishes these weapons from the epee. The convention is designed to provide a logical system for awarding touches when both contestants are hit at approximately the same time, and a thorough understanding of it is essential to good officiating.

§ 5. Order, safety and sportsmanship.

The officials are responsible for the good order of competitions, and have broad authority to carry out this responsibility. Competitive penalties of varying severity can be inflicted to maintain order, to compel respect of the conventions of the sport, to protect the safety of contestants and spectators, and to serve the interests of good sportsmanship. The great powers granted to officials in turn place upon them the moral obligation to use these powers fairly and temperately, keeping in mind that competitions are organized and conducted primarily for the enjoyment of the contestants. The rules of discipline should be applied firmly, but, when discretionary penalties are imposed, due allowance should be made for the tensions that normally prevail among contestants in the heat of competition. In brief, the code of good sportsmanship applies equally to contestants and to officials.

B. — EXPLANATION OF JUDGING TERMS

§ 1. Scope of international definitions.

The international rules define only a few of the terms commonly used in judging fencing. Every official should be thoroughly familiar with these definitions, e.g. "fencing tempo" (Art. 14), "ripostes" (Art. 15), "counter-attacks" (Art. 16), and "remises," "redoublement," and "retaking of attack" (Art. 17). Other terms of equal importance are not officially defined in the international rules. The explanations herein contained conform to the prevailing international practice as interpreted by the most experienced fencers of the United States.

§ 2. The sequence of play (phrase d'armes).

A sequence of play or *phrase d'armes* is a period in a bout during which there is no cessation of play. Generally the term refers to the alternation of play between the two fencers, and frequently includes an attack and one or more parries and ripostes. It is this alternation of continuous play that the President of the Jury is required to describe or reconstruct briefly in foil and sabre when questioning the judges on the materiality of a hit (Art. 100). The phrase comes to an end when the continuous action of the fencers is interrupted, even if only for a brief moment, and must be distinguished from the "period of combat" between the commands "Fence!" and "Halt." Just as there may be several periods of combat during a bout (which are measured in computing the duration of the bout), so there may be several "phrases" within each period of combat.

§ 3. The attack.

The attack is usually the initial movement of the sequence of play or phrase. Basically it consists of a forward movement of the weapon, which constitutes an imminent offensive threat to the opponent's valid target. In order to judge the attack properly, the officials should remember the following:

(a) Since the attacker in modern fencing seldom can reach the target by a simple extension of the arm, the attack usually includes an advance, jump, lunge or "fleche"; but it is the movement of the weapon into a threatening position, and

not the movement of the body, that characterizes the attack. Forward body movements may be made simply to close the distance, with the weapon in a clearly defensive position, and in such a case there is no attack.

(b) The rules do not require that the attack be made with a fully extended arm; in fact, there are outstanding international champions in foil and sabre who attack without extending the arm fully. However, in all cases, the attacker must clearly take the initiative in combat by threatening the defender's target with a forward movement of the weapon, whether by extension of the arm or a movement of the body or a combination of both. The classical schools of fencing recommend the extension of the arm on the attack because this method simplifies the task of the President of the Jury in many situations, as for example in the case of attacks which deceive the parry (see § 11 below).

§ 4. The lunge and the "fleche".

The most common body movements used on the original attack are the lunge and the "fleche", although both can also be used in ripostes and other counter-attacks. The lunge is executed by advancing the forward foot in the direction of the opponent, with a sharp extension of the rear leg while the rear foot remains stationary. The "fleche" is a walking or running action executed so that the rear foot leaves the floor first and temporarily crosses in front of the forward foot. Both forms of footwork are equally valid under the rules, but the "fleche"—particularly the "running fleche"—is more difficult to control and is more likely to result in violations of the rules of conventional play in foil and sabre (Art. 130, 251), the ground rules against crossing the boundaries of the field of play (Art. 79), and the rules against collision and unnecessary roughness (Art. 397, 581-582).

§ 5. Other body movements.

The other most common body movements are the advance, retreat, jump, "passata sotto", and "in quartata".

(a) *The advance* is executed in the direction of the opponent by moving the forward foot first and then the back foot. It is designed to close the distance. When this action is combined with the lunge it is described as *attaque en marchant* or *pattinando*.

(b) The retreat is the reverse of the advance, with the back foot moving first in a direction away from the opponent. It is designed to open the distance, and sometimes follows the recovery from the lunge.

(c) The jump is a forward or backward movement during which both feet are off the floor. When combined with the lunge on the attack it is called a *balestra*.

(d) "*Passata sotto*" is an action characteristic of the Italian school. Originally it consisted of a counter-action executed by extending the sword arm while stretching the rear foot backward and to the side, placing the weight on the leading leg and the free hand on the ground to complete the "tripod." More recently the term has been used to describe actions in the low line executed with any downward displacement of the body, such as a deep knee-bend.

(e) "*In quartata*" is another action developed by the Italian school. It consists of a counter-action executed by carrying the back foot to the side and pivoting the body in the same direction in order to take it out of the way of the attack, and extending the sword arm at the same time for a stop-thrust.

§ 6. Simple and composite attacks.

As a further elaboration of the international rules (Art. 15), the various types of attack may be described as follows:

(a) *Simple attacks* are made in one movement (usually when the attacker is

within reach of the opponent by an extension of the arm, lunge, or short "fleche"); they may be either "direct", *i.e.* by straight thrust or cut, or "indirect", by moving the attacking blade from a closed line into an open line, *i.e.* by disengagement (passing the point of the weapon around the defender's guard) or by a cut-over or *coupe* (when the attacker's weapon passes over the tip of the opponent's weapon).

(b) *Composite attacks* are made in two or more movements. The purpose of the preliminary movements is usually to force open a desired line, either by controlling the opponent's blade (see below, Actions on the Blade), or by impelling him through efficient feints to move his guard in an attempt to parry. The most common forms of the latter (cf. Art. 15 on composite ripostes) are the "one-two" (feint in one line and deceive of the opponent's simple parry) and the "double" (feint in one line and deceive of the opponent's circular or counter-parry). The *final* of the composite attack is the last forward motion of the blade immediately resulting in a hit or constituting the last continuous attempt to touch. The judges and the President of the Jury should carefully distinguish the final of the composite attack or riposte from the remise or redoublement (Art. 17).

§ 7. Other types of attack.

Attacks may also be distinguished for judging purposes as follows:

(a) *Attack on preparation* is one executed just as the opponent is about to start his own attack, but before the opponent's attack has actually begun. The fencer who attacks on preparation may steal the initiative when the opponent closes the distance, or executes a change of engagement, as a preliminary to his own attack; or he may attack after escaping or avoiding the opponent's attempt to take the blade as a preliminary to his own attack.

(b) *Attack of second intention* is a false attack which the attacker intends shall be parried by the defender, in the expectation that the attacker may then parry the defender's riposte and score on the counter-riposte.

(c) *Delayed attack* (attack *a temps perdu*, *a tempo perduto*) is a composite attack during which a "change of pace" causes a definite break in the continuity of the offensive movements. Generally, in foil and sabre, the delayed attack risks the loss of the "right of way". Its success depends upon the disorganization of the defense through the shift in rhythm or tempo of the attack, so that the defender is unable to take advantage of the momentary opening.

§ 8. Point in line.

The *point in line* is a defensive threat used to compel the attacker in foil and sabre to execute a preliminary action on the defender's blade under the rules of the "right of way" (Art. 143, 265). The theory is that no rational individual would, if the points were sharp, risk impaling himself without first attempting to deviate the threatening point. A defender is deemed to be "in line" if his arm is clearly extended and the point of his weapon threatens his opponent's valid target; it is not necessary that the arm be perfectly straight and the elbow locked, but the more bent the arm is, the greater the danger that neither the opponent nor the officials will consider that the point is effectively threatening the target.

§ 9. Actions on the blade.

Actions on the blade are sometimes divided into two categories: (a) attacks on the blade, the purpose of which is to deviate the opponent's threatening point in line or to force the opponent's blade aside in order to open a line for the attack (when the opponent is not in line); and (b) actions which take the blade (*prise de fer*, *presa di ferro*), the purpose of which is to capture, hold, or dominate the

opponent's blade as a means of protecting the attacker against the defender's counter-attack in time. The principal actions on the blade are:

Beat (<i>battement, battuta</i>)	Glide (<i>coule, filo</i>)
Pressure	Bind (<i>liement, legamento</i>)
Opposition	Envelopment (<i>trasporto di ferro</i>)

From the point of view of judging, there is no difference between the two categories mentioned above. It should be remembered, however, that the international rules (footnotes to Art. 134, 143, 257, 265) specifically provide that, against the point in line, a light contact of blades is not sufficient to deviate the threatening point for the purposes of the "right of way."

§ 10. The parry.

A parry is a defensive movement, executed with the blade or guard or both, that either blocks or deviates the opponent's offensive action (attack, riposte, or counter-riposte) so as to prevent a score on that action. The usual parries are:

(a) *The simple parry*, which is a direct movement of the defender's weapon to meet the attacker's blade that threatens an exposed line; the two principal types are the opposition (blocking) parry, and the beat (deviating) parry;

(b) *The counter-parry* or circular parry, which is a circular movement of the defender's weapon that sweeps the attacker's threatening blade back to the line from which the parry started.

Generally the parry is deemed sufficient, in foil and sabre if it clears the valid target, even if only for a brief time. Thus a simple "finding" of the blade (*i.e.* a light parry) is sufficient against a feint during a composite attack (Art. 136, 143, 259, 265). On the other hand, the parry against a simple attack or the final of a composite attack must be sufficiently authoritative to block or deviate the attacking thrust (or, in sabre, to break the force of the cut). This means that the successful parry ordinarily must be made with the guard or the stronger parts (the two-thirds nearest the guard) of the blade. A beat parry (*tac au tac*), properly made, always deviates the opposing blade, even when the movement is faster than the eye can follow. However, an attempt to parry with the foible (the forward third of the blade nearest the tip) ordinarily carries no authority against the final movement of an attack, and is usually insufficient.

§ 11. Escapes and deceives (*derobement, trompement*).

These actions are executed with the same purpose—that of eluding the opponent's blade—but in different situations. The *derobement* is the action of the defender who is "in line" to escape the attempt of the attacker to take the blade. The *trompement* is the action of the attacker to deceive the defender's attempt to parry. When the blades of the contestants are in movement around each other without contact, the President of the Jury must decide whether the attacker is endeavoring to deceive the defender's parry or is endeavoring to attack by taking the defender's blade, only to find that the defender is successfully escaping the attacker's effort to effect contact. This is an important decision in determining the "right of way" in foil and sabre.

§ 12. The riposte and counter-riposte.

The riposte is the offensive action of the defender which follows a successful parry of the attack. As noted in the international rules (Art. 15), the riposte may be simple or composite, immediate or delayed. The counter-riposte is the attacker's riposte after he has parried the riposte of the defender. In a long sequence of play there may be any number of counter-ripostes alternating between the two fencers after each successful parry.

§ 13. Other actions.

The principal remaining actions are described in the international rules (Art. 16, 17).

§ 14. The "right of way."

The basic theories of the "right of way" in foil and sabre are (a) that the fencer who provokes or is responsible for a double touch is at fault; and (b) that the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) should consist of an orderly alternation of actions between the contestants: attack, parry-riposte, parry-counter-riposte, etc. The fencer who departs from this sequence is required to have the advantage of a full fencing tempo (Art. 14) in order to score; this is more than a perceptible difference in time, for it is keyed to the speed of the exchange of actions in the sequence of play.

§ 15. Continuity of offensive actions.

The composite attack, to be correctly executed, must be continuous in its offensive threat. Any perceptible stop between movements constitutes an interruption of the composite attack and results in the loss of the original "right of way." Whether one or the other fencer thereafter acquires the "right of way" depends on the sequence and correctness of subsequent actions. The same principle applies to composite ripostes and counter-ripostes.

C. — THE PRESIDENT OF THE JURY

§ 1. Authority.

The President of the Jury (or director of combat) is in full charge of the bout, and has broad authority not only over the contestants but over all persons who are present at the competition. He alone may award touches. He has wide powers of discipline. He must permit no one—fencers, judges, or spectators—to trespass upon his authority or interfere with the orderly conduct of the bout. He must be firm but fair; and, without dramatics, must command everyone's respect by the confidence and clarity of his orders and decisions.

§ 2. Location.

The President of the Jury should stand at an equal distance from both contestants, and not less than 6 feet nor more than 15 feet away from the strip. He should retain his relative position by moving back and forth along the strip according to the progress of the bout. This position permits him to see both contestants and to watch the action in proper perspective. When there are four judges, and the bout is between a right-handed fencer and a left-handed fencer, the President should stand on the side of the strip from which he can see the chest of both contestants; and when the contestants change sides in the middle of the bout, the President should cross over to the other side of the strip. When there are only two judges, however, and one contestant is left-handed, the President should stand so that he faces the backs of both contestants while the two judges are stationed so that they can watch the front targets. In competitions with electric weapons, the President always stands on the side of the strip opposite the registration apparatus.

§ 3. Directives to judges.

The President of the Jury alone decides which judges are to watch each contestant, and he may shift their places as he sees fit. However, when a wholly neutral jury is not feasible, he should endeavor to balance club affiliations when possible. The President cautions the judges when they get too close to the con-

testants or when they step forward so as to interfere with his view of the ensemble of play, and instructs them when necessary on the method of signaling hit or of answering his questions in the judging process.

§ 4. Directives to contestants.

The President may refuse to permit contestants to fence if their equipment is faulty (e.g. torn uniform, unsafe mask, etc.). In bouts with electric weapons, he requires the contestants to test their weapons, both on fair target and on the opponent's guard before the beginning of a bout; and he instructs the fencers that, if the one who has been hit wishes to test his weapon (in order possibly to claim annulment), the test must be conducted only as directed by the President of the Jury. At the beginning of each period of combat, the President requires the contestants to go on guard so that their front feet are 4 meters (about 13 feet) apart, so as to avoid any possibility of a surprise touch being scored at the command to fence.

§ 5. Control of voting on touches.

The President of the Jury alone decides the "right of way" in foil and sabre and the validity of the touches in all weapons. However, on questions of materiality, i.e., whether or not there is a hit, each judge has one vote and the President has a vote and a half. The preferred procedure is as follows:

(a) The President briefly outlines the sequence of play immediately preceding the command "Halt!", and then asks each pair of judges in turn whether a hit has been scored on the fencer they are watching in each action of the phrase. With experienced judges, the description of the phrase and the questions may be handled together, thus:

President: "Attack starts from the left; any hit?"

Judge A (on President's left): "No".

Judge B (also on President's left): "Abstain".

President: "No hit on the attack. Riposte?"

Judge C (on President's right): "Yes".

Judge D (also on President's right): "Yes."

President: "Touch is left."

(b) The President alone decides which of the two judges on each side he will question first (usually the one who is in a better position to see a possible hit), but he must question the other judge on the same side before expressing his opinion if any, and before questioning the judges on the other side.

(c) The President may review the votes of the judges if there is reason to believe that a misunderstanding has occurred. He may if he wishes require any judge to indicate the place where he thinks a hit may have landed.

(d) All decisions are rendered on the basis of a majority of the votes cast. Therefore, when the two judges on one side are in agreement, the President's contrary opinion would not change the result (since he would be outvoted 2-1½). In this case, the President should refrain from voicing his opinion, since this would only undermine the confidence of his judges and encourage dissatisfaction on the part of the contestants.

(e) The President should not permit any discussion between the judges and the contestants during or after the vote on materiality. If the contestant or his team captain complains about the vote or the decision, only the President is authorized to hear the complaint, and he alone explains the basis for the decision if he deems it desirable to do so.

D. — THE JUDGES

§ 1. Location.

Each judge should take the position assigned to him by the President of the Jury, and should stand at least three feet to the side and behind the opponent of the fencer he is watching (Art. U.S.-94). The judges should move forward or backward according to the progress of the bout, so that they always remain in position to see any hits that may occur and avoid blocking the President's view of the ensemble of play.

§ 2. Method of voting.

When a judge sees or thinks he sees a hit, on or off target, he should so advise the President by raising his hand. When the President halts play and questions a judge, it is important that the answers be clear and concise, and be given in an audible voice. The answers should be "Yes," "No," "Yes, but off target", or "Abstain" (Art. 102). If a judge votes "Yes" on a foil hit that lands outside the regular target because he believes that there has been an improper masking or displacement of the target, he should so state briefly; but as a rule the judge should confine himself to the standard answers to the President's questions, and should avoid any discussions with the President, the other judges, or the contestants.

§ 3. Calling halt.

A judge may not normally call "Halt!", since this is one of the prerogatives of the President of the Jury. However, a judge may do so in emergencies, such as a broken blade, disarranged clothing, faulty or dangerous equipment, or the possibility that an accident may occur (Art. 95).

E. — TYPICAL PROBLEMS IN JUDGING FOIL

§ 1. Good and invalid hits.

Since the foil is a thrusting weapon only, a judge should call a hit, on or off target, when the point reaches any part of the body or equipment (other than the weapon) of the fencer he is watching. If the hit is off target, it must nevertheless be called, since such a hit invalidates anything that may happen later in the same sequence of play.

§ 2. Light touches.

The rules do not require any special degree of theoretical penetration; but they do require that there be a clear contact between the point and the valid or invalid surface.

§ 3. Flat hits.

Hits with the side of the blade do not count in any way. However, it is possible in certain actions for both the point and the side of the blade nearest the tip to be in contact with the target, and in such cases if the weapon is moving forward there is a touch.

§ 4. Hits with the parry.

The judge must distinguish between hits which arrive, on or off target, because of an insufficient or late parry (which are judged as direct hits); and actions which do not count at all because the parry is successful, even though the side of the blade brushes across the target or other parts of the body or equipment. Another important distinction should be made between the light parries of skilled fencers (which are usually sufficient to deflect the attacking blade even if the deflection is momentary), and the improper parries of fencers of elementary standard which may meet the blade but do not sufficiently deflect the attacking blade.

§ 5. Hits after the parry.

Until recently the rules provided that any hit arriving off the target after a parry, or as a result of the parry, did not stop the action or invalidate anything occurring thereafter. Since 1956, however, such hits are judged exactly like any other hits, *i.e.*, as remises after the parry.

§ 6. Covering or displacement of the target.

The judges should, with respect to the Italian "passata sotto" and "in quartata" (both defined above), carefully study Art. 127. Other common cases of covering or displacement of the target in foil are (1) the attacker, after being parried, places his sword arm against his chest while on the lunge or in the course of recovery; (2) the free arm or hand is brought in front of valid target; (3) the defender turns from an attack or riposte so that his sword arm and shoulder are substituted for the trunk of the body; (4) an exaggerated lowering of the head by leaning over the knee at the end of the lunge protects the valid target with the head. However, it should be remembered that the normal movements of the parry do not constitute improper covering of the target (Art. 632), and that improper covering or displacement of the target cannot result in a penalty touch unless there has been a hit (Art. 633).

F. — TYPICAL PROBLEMS IN JUDGING SABRE

§ 1. Good and invalid hits.

Since the sabre is both a thrusting and a cutting weapon, a judge should call a hit when either the point or one of the cutting edges reaches any part of the body or equipment (other than the weapon) of the fencer he is watching.

§ 2. Hits heard but not seen.

Sometimes a judge obtains a clear impression, from the movement and position of the blade and the sound of a hit, that the fencer he is watching has been touched, even though strictly speaking he does not "see" the hit land because it is outside his field of vision (*e.g.* an outside cut to the cuff). Although the rules do not specifically say so, it is universally accepted practice for a judge to call a hit based on logical inference in such cases. It should be borne in mind, however, that the sound is not enough; it is the combination of the sound and the direction of the blade that justifies the inference that there has been a hit.

§ 3. Thrusts that pass.

The rules clearly provide that a thrust which passes does not count at all, even though a cutting edge may come in contact with the target. Consequently, no hit can be called unless there is a clear secondary cutting action after the pass.

§ 4. Flat hits.

As a rule, the only flat hits in sabre are those which result from a whipping motion of the blade, and most frequently those which "whip over" the parrying blade. These do not count at all, regardless of how much noise they make. However, a clear cutting action should not be considered flat (even if there is a sound like a thud), because with the modern thin sabre blade it is almost impossible in such actions for one of the cutting edges not to come in contact with the target.

§ 5. Insufficient parries.

The judge must clearly distinguish actions which "whip over" the parry (and do not count at all) from hits which arrive before or *at the same time* as the parry (*i.e.* touch the opponent and his blade simultaneously). The latter are good touches if on target, or stop the action if off target. The most difficult problem

for inexperienced sabre judges is in the proper judging of head cuts. The problem is further complicated when the head cut is met by a "vertical" parry (*tierce*, *quarte*, *counter-tierce*, *counter-quarte*), rather than by the more solid head parry (*quinte*). Although it is theoretically possible to parry a head cut with a vertical parry, perfect execution is necessary to avoid meeting the cut with the foible of the blade, and in many instances the parry is insufficient.

§ 6. Hits after the parry.

Another difficult problem concerns a possible contact of the blade with the mask after a successful head parry has clearly broken the force of the head cut. The international practice is to regard such contact as in the nature of a flat hit (and of no consequence) unless there has been a clear secondary cutting action, as in the case of thrusts that pass. With respect to hits that land outside the target after the parry, the 1956 amendments to the international rules provide that such hits are judged exactly as other hits, *i.e.*, as remises after the parry.

G. — TYPICAL PROBLEMS IN DIRECTING COMBAT

§ 1. Actions before the command "Fence!"

At one time the rules provided that any touch scored by a fencer who started an action before the command "Fence!" would be annulled, but that, if he did not touch and was touched in the subsequent exchange, the touch against him would count. This is no longer true. Today, the fencers are simply put back on guard, and touches either way are disregarded (Art. 59). Nevertheless, the President of the Jury should be careful not to issue the command "Fence!" prematurely. He should ask both fencers if they are ready, and should pause sufficiently to permit each one to answer the question. Silence is construed to mean that the fencers are ready, but only if the President's pause is sufficient to permit an answer.

§ 2. Touches after "Halt!"

Touches which arrive after "Halt!" may be awarded if the scoring action was under way at the command. This often occurs when an attack is followed by an immediate riposte and the President thinks that the attack may have landed. Upon analysis the judges may establish that the attack was parried, and in such a case the President must award the riposte if it landed, provided it was immediate and was started at or before the command "Halt!" (Art. 62).

§ 3. Halting in good faith.

As a general rule, a contestant should not stop fencing unless the President of the Jury has given the command to halt; if he does stop without a command from the President, a touch scored against him must be awarded unless the President finds that the fencer stopped "in good faith" (Art. 63). What constitutes halting in good faith?

(a) Sometimes, due to limited space, several strips are close together and the Presidents may be back-to-back, each calling out the commands to fence and halt. In such circumstances, a fencer may stop when he thinks that a command of "Halt!" given on an adjoining strip was given by the President of his own strip.

(b) If in retreating the fencer comes in contact with a person crossing the strip behind him, he may stop before the President has had an opportunity to call "Halt!"

(c) If the fencer realizes his own or his opponent's clothing is disarranged, or that any part of the equipment is faulty and may cause an accident, he may stop instinctively. However, in these cases, the President of the Jury should suggest that the fencer in the future step back out of fencing distance and call the President's attention to the particular problem.

§ 4. Fencers off the field of play.

A fencer is considered to be within the limits of the field of play as long as any part of either foot is on or above the rear or lateral boundaries of the field of play. The basic rule is that a fencer who is outside the legal limits of the field of play cannot score a touch on his opponent who has remained within the field of play, but he may be considered touched in certain cases (Art. 72).

(a) When the attacker's action is parried and he is hit by an immediate riposte, the riposte is valid even if the attacker has gone off the field of play. In a similar situation, if the riposte is delayed, the touch is not awarded.

(b) If the attacker is parried and the immediate riposte fails to land because the attacker goes off the field of play, the only penalty against him is the ground rule penalty of one meter in foil and two meters in epee and sabre (Art. 77). There is no such thing as a "warning for leaving the strip to avoid a riposte".

(c) When a defender parries an attack but steps off the field of play (end or side) as he makes his immediate riposte, the riposte does not count if it lands after the fencer left the field of play. However, when the strip is too short to permit the fencer to retreat the full distance permitted by the rules, there is a difference. In such cases, the retreating fencer is allowed to go off the rear limit without penalty one or more times; therefore, when he retreats past the rear limit for the first time (or at any time prior to the last time), he is still within the legal limits of the full field of play, and therefore all actions by him are affected only by the President's call of "Halt!" If such a fencer prior to the call of "Halt!" makes a successful action (attack or riposte), this action cannot be annulled on the ground that he was off the field of play (Art. 76).

(d) When a fencer who has the "right of way" scores a touch while he is off the field of play, and is hit at the same time by his opponent who remains on the field of play, the violator of the ground rules is deprived of the touch he made, but he cannot be further penalized by having the other touch scored against him.

§ 5. Infighting and clinches.

The rules clearly authorize infighting or "combat at close quarters" (Art. 67-68); and such infighting is sound tactics for certain fencers. The President of the Jury should not call a halt so long as the fencers are able to use their weapons freely for attack and defense. If the President is of the opinion that the action has degenerated into a series of simultaneous jabs which he will be unable to reconstruct or analyze, he may call a halt on that ground (Art. 64). Furthermore, if at any time either fencer is unable to use his weapon, as for example when the fencers come together and remain in contact, a clinch (*corps-a-corps*) exists, and the President is then required to stop the action immediately (Art. 68). It is not unusual, however, for a fencer who finds himself at a disadvantage during infighting to close with his opponent in order to avoid being hit. This is permitted in epee as long as the clinch is not forced with unnecessary roughness; but in foil and sabre, forcing the clinch is contrary to the conventions of play, and the President is required to warn the contestant who is at fault (Art. 130, 251). After this warning, if the fencer again forces the clinch, a touch is awarded against him for each repetition of the offense in the same bout. In the event that both fencers together force the clinch, there is no warning or penalty, provided neither fencer has been guilty of unnecessary roughness.

§ 6. "Fleches."

As indicated in the section on explanation of terms, the "running fleche" is a perfectly legal form of footwork. Properly executed it should end with the attacker going past his opponent and avoiding any body contact. Unfortunately it

is often executed so that there is a jolting collision with the opponent. The rules are very specific about this situation, in all three weapons. The collision is regarded as an act of violence, and the President of the Jury must warn the offender for unnecessary roughness. If a touch is scored on such a "fleche" before a warning has been given, the touch counts; but if a warning has been given, the touch is annulled and the offender is penalized one touch. Any repetition of the offense after a warning and a touch penalty leads to the expulsion of the offender. The warning remains in force during the entire pool (Art. 397, 581-582).

§ 7. Behavior of contestants.

Ordinarily there is no problem about taking disciplinary action against competitors who are guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. The troublesome cases are those in which the fencer mistakenly follows a course of conduct that on the surface may not be contrary to good sportsmanship. For example:

(a) Although the rules permit a fencer to acknowledge a touch that he has received, the best practice in competitive fencing is to leave the decisions up to the jury. The judges are not bound by the acknowledgement in any event (Art. 98). Furthermore, a fencer is absolutely forbidden to acknowledge a touch after the President has rendered his decision; and he must not then show by word or gesture that he disagrees with the vote of a judge or with the President's decision (Art. 390).

(b) Even more objectionable is for a fencer to apologize to his opponent when the decision goes against the opponent. This is both bad manners and bad sportsmanship. It is just as important for the contestants to behave like sportsmen toward the officials as toward their opponents.

§ 8. Beats versus parries in sabre.

Perhaps the most troublesome problem in the analysis of the "right of way" in sabre is the distinction which the President of the Jury must make between beats and parries in sabre. This is partly due to the fact that sabre parries are usually of the blocking rather than the "beat" variety, and partly to the fact that often the fencer intending to make an outside beat does so against the forte (the lower third) of the opponent's blade. Such a spurious "beat" should be judged as a feint which has been parried, so that the defender is justified in riposting. If such a spurious "beat" is followed by an "attack", the latter must be judged as a retaking of the attack; therefore the immediate riposte has the "right of way", but if the defender hesitates or delays the "right of way" passes to the retaking of the attack. The action is much clearer when the beat is properly made against the upper two-thirds of the defender's blade.

§ 9. Benefit of the doubt.

In all weapons, the President of the Jury should be particularly careful in the situations involving the "benefit of the doubt." (Art. 104.) The most troublesome question arises when the first judge votes "No hit" and the second judge is of the opinion that a hit has arrived but is in doubt as to whether it landed on or off target. The international rules are not uniformly interpreted in this situation; for some Presidents of Jury give the "absention as to place" the same effect as a vote of "Yes but invalid" when the other judge votes "No hit", and the effect of "Yes" when the other judge votes that there is a hit. In the United States, the prevailing view is that the international rules do not recognize "absention as to place." Therefore, in the situation indicated, if the President has no opinion, the judgment must be "No hit." Of course, if the President has the impression that a hit has arrived on or off target, his opinion prevails.